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Issue No 125
Available from Wednesday,
February 17, 2010



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HEALTH & BEAUTY

Tips and treatments to help you look good and feel even better – See inside



SCOUT DIES IN HORROR AVALANCHE

A TEENAGE Scout from Borough Green has been killed in an avalanche in the Scottish Highlands.

Stephen Young – who was taking part in an annual Scout trip when tragedy struck on Monday – was airlifted to hospital in Fort William from Creag Meagaidh in Inverness-shire but was pronounced dead on arrival.

It is not known what triggered the avalanche on the 3,701ft high cliff circuit, but police have confirmed they are investigating.

The 18-year-old, who is believed to be a former sixth form student at

■ BY ANNA WHITE

Maidstone Girls' Grammar, was on the trip with his parents, Andrew, 46, who is in the RAF, and Judy, 43, also a Scout leader.

The youngster's grandfather James Young, 70, told Sky News: "It's a complete and utter disaster. It's an awful blow, he was only 18. I can't believe it's happened, it's absolutely horrendous."

"He was a very active lad with the Scouts, very outgoing."

"These things happen, I'm afraid. At least he died doing something he loved."

Mr Young, an Explorer Scout, was walking along a ridge with seven other adults when the accident happened. It is not thought anyone else was injured.

It has been reported that members of the Kinder Mountain Rescue Team, based in the English Peak District, were on holiday in the Highlands and raised the alarm.

An RAF helicopter and Lochaber and Kinloss Mountain Rescue teams were involved in the search and rescue operation.

In a statement, Simon Carter of the Scout Association paid tribute to Mr

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



TERRIBLE LOSS

Stephen Young died while trekking in the Scottish Highlands. The 18-year-old Scout leader, from Borough Green, suffered fatal injuries while walking in the Cairngorms on Monday.

The Scout Association said: "Stephen was part of an experienced group in the Cairngorms to expand their winter hill walking skills."

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Stephen's family and friends at this time. We are working with the authorities to support those involved in this tragic incident."

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Consultation row over NHS parking plans

■ BY ANNA WHITE

VIEWS of hospital patients and visitors may have been bypassed in a national consultation into whether NHS car parking charges should be scrapped, a council committee claims.

Maidstone's external overview and scrutiny board has hit out at the Department of Health for failing to give residents a fair chance to comment on the report before yesterday's cut-off date.

The criticism comes after a breakdown in communication between the DoH and local authorities.

The consultation was published on December 29 last year, but the council was only made aware of its existence 16 days before the deadline.

The committee's chairman, Cllr Eric Hotson said: "The consultation was not forwarded to the local authorities in the NHS south east coast area until February 1 – this is not long enough for councillors to gather views of their residents and formulate a response."

The report focuses on the effects hospital parking charges have on patients' experiences and whether improvements could be made to help patients recover without the added financial pressure.

In the introduction to the consultation, Secretary of State for Health Andy Burnham said he believes the NHS can do better to manage parking and the current "costly" parking services which cause "considerable stress and hardship to families" already going through an anxious time.

The papers state all parking charges at NHS sites could not be scrapped immediately as it is not feasible and could lose the health sector up to £200 million a year. However, Mr Burnham



REPORT: Maidstone hospital is among those where parking charges may be phased out

wanted to see it "phased out" during the next three years and wanted to use the consultation to find solutions.

The Secretary of State said he wanted to hear a range of views on the issue, but the external overview and scrutiny panel argued that, despite this being an issue of great concern to communities, the target audience outlined in the document did not include local authorities or the public.

Other concerns included the shortened consultation period of eight weeks, a reduction from the minimum 12 set out in the Government Code of Practice.

In retaliation to the reduced deadline, the committee has requested a time extension to consider the documents and give residents more time to send in their views.

The board will discuss the consultation at its meeting on March 9, after which a response will be submitted.

Comments can be emailed to osc@maidstone.gov.uk before the meeting date.

At the time of writing the Department of Health had not answered calls from Yourmaidstone.

yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Pupils asked to design house of the future

SCHOOL children who design a house of the future could win money for their classmates.

The competition is being run by Elephant, a Kent-based window and conservatory company, to help them find eco-friendly house ideas.

The winner will get a personal prize, cash for their school and their design will also be put on a billboard.

Entries should be sent to Elephant's Design-A-House, c/o PMW Communications, Stane Court, Stane Street, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9HP, or emailed to elephant@pmwcom.co.uk, by Friday, February 26.

Custard pie flingers prepare to do battle

CHAMPIONS of an international custard pie-throwing contest have started training to ensure they retain their trophy for another year.

The Coxheath Til I Pie team are discussing tactics for the 43rd World Championships.

Each year teams from across the UK and other countries attempt to hit their opponents with the custard pudding in a series of heats.

This year's contest is at Coxheath Village Hall on Saturday, May 22.

To enter email Leslee Harris at lesleewcp@goolemail.com or go to www.wcp.me.uk.

Have you the makings of borough councillor?

RESIDENTS who are passionate about their community may have the qualities to be a borough councillor.

Maidstone council needs new recruits and is holding an information day at the Town Hall, High Street, from 4-8pm on Monday, March 8.

Potential applicants will be able to meet current councillors and officers who will offer advice and information on what's involved and how much commitment is needed.

Successful councillors will receive training, a small allowance and ongoing support.



For information and advice on travelling in Kent and for all our traffic regulation orders, please see the Kent on Saturday or the Kent on Sunday or visit our website at www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Would-be MPs pledge of good clean contest

Restoring voters' trust is key aim

■ BY ANNA WHITE

CANDIDATES hoping to become Maidstone's next MP have pledged to run clean campaigns in the upcoming general election.

Three of the town's parliamentary candidates, who hope to replace veteran Tory MP Ann Widdecombe, have promised not to use dirty tactics as they compete to win votes.

Conservative hopeful Helen Grant said: "I strongly believe candidates should make pledges about their behaviour prior to the election and agree to run clean campaigns.

"Dirty tactics only alienate the electorate and we must strive to re-engage our voters and concentrate on electing a government that will put our country back on its feet."

Liberal Democrat candidate Peter Carroll and Green Party representative Stuart Jeffery have also agreed to run clean campaigns.

The truce follows calls from Mr Carroll, who recently sold his Larkfield-based haulage firm, for his rivals to follow his pledge not to abuse the MPs expenses system if elected.

His announcement comes just weeks after



PARTY LINE: Liberal Democrat Peter Carroll, left, Conservative Helen Grant and Green Party hopeful Stuart Jeffery

four MPs were prosecuted for dishonestly claiming expenses and Mr Carroll promised not to claim for a second home or to have another job, if elected.

Mr Carroll said: "The public are absolutely disgusted by the conduct of many MPs. They rightly believe their outrageous behaviour with expenses has ruined any faith that was left in politics. At this election, the calibre of the person will be more important than ever. I believe people have had enough of professional politicians."

Mr Jeffery backed the pledges, but also added a few of his own. He said he would like to see the next Maidstone and Weald MP be fully

open about any expenses claimed, spend their time working with constituents and campaign for true proportional representation in parliament, including an elected House of Lords.

Mrs Grant acknowledged Mr Carroll's proposals, but has her own views on how an elected MP should behave in Parliament.

She said: "I will work hard to restore public trust and confidence in MPs through integrity and transparency and by following the rules.

"My pledges for Maidstone and the Weald are about the things that matter to the people of this constituency."

Labour's parliamentary candidate, Rav Seeruthun, could not be contacted for comment.

36 Challenge is not for the faint-hearted

TEAMS hope to raise money for Maidstone soldiers by completing a series of challenges – but need help to get the event up and running.

Organisers of the annual 36 Challenge hope to recruit potential sponsors for participating teams, a panel of judges, volunteers to run stalls, prizes for a tombola and a printing firm to make the venue look the part – all in aid of charity.

The challenge is held at the Mall Chequers each year to help collect funds for Maidstone's Army regiment – the 36 Engineers, based at Invicta Park Barracks.

The event involves teams of six and sees them tackle sporting challenges against the clock and other competitors.

Tragedy

This year's contest, to be held on March 13, is seen as more poignant than ever as it follows the recent death of one of the 36 Engineers' comrades, David Markland, who was killed in Afghanistan – read the full story on page five.

Warrant Officer Class 2 Markland's regiment has already signed up to take part in the challenge, as has a team from the Village Hotel, Maidstone, and winners from the last two years: the Bob Prowse Gym in Armstrong Road.

Those thinking of entering are advised the challenges are not for the faint-hearted.

Residents or businesses who could lend a hand for the day, or wish to enter, can contact Lee Bennett at Maidstone town centre management on 01622 678777, email lbennett@mtcmti.co.uk or visit the management office on level two in the Mall Chequers.

Cairngorms avalanche tragedy

FROM FRONT PAGE

Young's "sheer zest for life" and said his desire to help others will be sadly missed.

The spokesman added: "Stephen was part of an experienced, all-adult group who were in Cairngorms as part of their annual trip to the region to expand their winter hill-walking skills.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Stephen's family and friends at this very sad time."

The teenager, who had been a member of the Scouting movement since he was six years old, made headlines in 2007 when he raised nearly £2,500 for Demelza children's charity, based near Sittingbourne, by camping out in his garden for the whole year.

His grandfather said Mr Young was studying electronics and hoped for a career in film production.

According to national newspapers, the SportScotland Avalanche Information Service had warned earlier on Monday that the avalanche risk in the area was "considerable".

A report on the incident will be sent to the procurator fiscal at Fort William.

Sickening images on pervert's computer

A PAEDOPHILE who downloaded more than 18,000 indecent images and movies of children has been jailed for 20 months.

Ronald Fuller, formerly of Wrotham Heath, was handed the sentence at Maidstone Crown Court.

Judge Philip Statman said the images found on Fuller's computer were some of the worst he has ever seen.

Of the 18,378 images and films, 2,866 were categorised either level four of five, level five being the most serious depicting sadism or bestiality with children.

Judge Statman said: "Each of these images has a victim. These are young girls, early teens depicted in the most appalling states of humiliation inflicted on them by adults."

Fuller was caught after Kent Police executed a warrant at his home in September, last year.

He was charged the same day with seven offences of possessing indecent images of children and 20 offences of making indecent images of children.

He pleaded guilty to all but one offence in December.

Senior investigating officer Det Con Jo Gordon said: "Fuller had an extensive collection of indecent



SICK IMAGES: Paedophile Ronald Fuller

images, including many stills and movies of children being sadistically abused.

"People engaged in such offences must realise that they are contributing towards the continuing horrific abuse of children.

"We are determined to do everything we can to track down and bring to justice these offenders."

Fuller, who has already served part of his sentence while on remand, will be placed on the sex offenders register for ten years.

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yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Quake heroes enjoy tea at No.10 with PM's wife

THE wife of Prime Minister Gordon Brown has thanked Kent's specialist search and rescue team for their efforts in Haiti.

Sarah Brown hosted a tea party at Downing Street and invited the six-strong team from Kent Fire and Rescue Service and staff from eight other UK fire crews as a thank you for the contribution they made in the aftermath of the earthquake.

The teams were also given a tour of Number 10, including the Cabinet and State rooms.

Fertile ground for police with market attendance

MAIDSTONE'S Rural Neighbourhood police team are to visit farmers' markets to hear villagers' thoughts and concerns.

PCSO supervisor Nicola Morris said the markets were a perfect opportunity to meet people they may not normally get a chance to see.

Officers will attend markets in Lenham, Langley, Headcorn and Yalding between now and May.

People who cannot make the markets but wish to discuss policing concerns can contact the team on 01622 604392.

Have you lost a purse?

POLICE are keen to trace elderly shoppers who may have been victims of purse thieves.

Officers wish to speak to an elderly couple who were shopping in Robert Dyas and an elderly woman with a trolley bag in Barnardos, both on Gabriel's Hill, Maidstone, last Wednesday.

It is believed they may have been targeted by a trio, all male, who were arrested on the same day on suspicion of theft.

The victims are urged to call Maidstone police on 01622 690690.

Fit for charity purpose

ENERGETIC residents dug out their gym kits to take part in a national two-hour aerobathon in aid of a children's charity.

Marriot Tudor Park Hotel in Bearsted was just one of more than 150 gyms across the country to host the event and help raise cash for the NSPCC's Child's Voice Appeal.

Hundreds of qualified gym instructors began the workout at 6pm on Monday, last week, but the Maidstone team ran another the following morning to collect more funds.

StARTle top prize is gallery exhibition

■ BY ANNA WHITE

PICASSO wannabes and photographers hoping to be the next David Bailey are invited to enter a competition to win a free four-week exhibition.

The contest – StARTle 2010 – is open to illustrators, painters, film-makers, photographers and even model-makers, who could all benefit from a free showcase at Maidstone's Graham Clarke Gallery.

StARTle was launched in 2009, by the borough council and supported by this paper, to mark the Hazlitt Arts Centre's first anniversary.

Hundreds entered in the hope of winning a free exhibition, but a judging panel awarded photographer Rebecca Crosbie the prize during a ceremony which followed a family fun day.

This year the celebrations for the competition, which for the second year Yourmaidstone is the exclusive media partner for, is extended to a three-day festival.

Cabinet member for leisure and culture Cllr Brian Moss said he was looking forward to the changes for this year's event.

"This year we have decided to make StARTle into a three-day festival," he said.



TALENTED: Last year's winner Rebecca Crosbie

"It's going to be bigger and better than last year and we're encouraging as many people as possible to get involved by submitting their work."

"The winner will get a free four-week exhibition in the Graham Clarke Gallery, which is a fantastic opportunity for any person looking to get established in the art world."

"I'm delighted that Maidstone council is working with Yourmaidstone for the second



year running and look forward to seeing the entries."

Entries for StARTle 2010 need to be submitted by Friday, April 23, and will then be judged by a panel led by Boughton Monchelsea-based artist and inspiration behind the exhibition space, Graham Clarke.

Mr Clarke will be joined on the panel by Yourmaidstone news editor, Simon Robinson, and lecturer at the University or the Creative Arts, Dr Terry Perk. Five shortlisted artists will be invited to bring their work in for judging in the week beginning May 3, before the winner is unveiled during the three-day festival, between May 13 and 15.

To enter send a digital jpeg image or a still photo of one art piece, together with a brief summary of yourself as an artist and a description of your work, your name, address and telephone number to: Vronni Ward, marketing manager, at vronniward@maidstone.gov.uk.

Keep reading Yourmaidstone for upcoming details of the event and interviews with the judges and past winner.



NEW BEAT: PCSO Richard Chainey

Say hello, hello, hello to PCSO

VILLAGERS have a new officer on the beat in their area to tackle concerns and deter criminals.

Richard Chainey has been appointed as the new Police Community Support Officer for Loose, Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton and has already made a good impression.

PSO Chainey, who took up his position after completing a policing degree, said: "I have always seen my future as being in policing."

"I wanted a career which would be interesting, involve meeting lots of people and doing something different every day."

The 25-year-old is looking into issues raised by residents in each village, such as speeding

motorists in Chart Sutton, and is hoping to find solutions. The new officer's task in Loose is to work with the parish council to deter anti-social youths from congregating at the public park – a concern he hopes to raise at the next parish council meeting.

The area is already patrolled at weekends by a rural anti-social behaviour car, but PCSO Chainey believes more police presence will help resolve the problem.

He will also be making regular visits to the Cornwallis Academy to build relationships with students and staff, plus to urge parents to stop parking inconsiderately.

To contact PCSO Chainey, phone 01622 604392.

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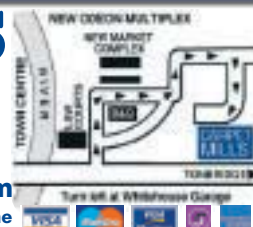
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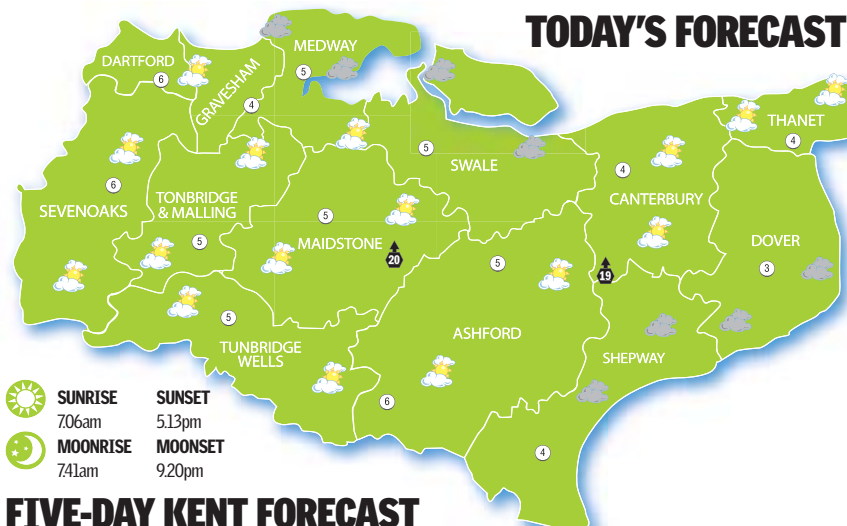


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	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	5°C	5°C	7°C	7°C	7°C	Gravesend	6°C	6°C	7°C	6°C	7°C
Canterbury	5°C	4°C	7°C	6°C	6°C	Maidstone	5°C	5°C	7°C	7°C	7°C
Chatham	6°C	4°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	Ramsgate	5°C	4°C	7°C	6°C	6°C
Dartford	6°C	6°C	7°C	6°C	7°C	Rochester	6°C	4°C	6°C	6°C	6°C
Dover	4°C	3°C	6°C	5°C	6°C	Sevensoaks	4°C	4°C	6°C	5°C	5°C
Faversham	6°C	4°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	Sittingbourne	6°C	4°C	6°C	6°C	6°C
Folkestone	4°C	3°C	6°C	5°C	6°C	Tonbridge	5°C	5°C	7°C	6°C	7°C
Gillingham	6°C	4°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	Tun Wells	5°C	5°C	7°C	6°C	7°C



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	4:21pm	5.5m
	Sunday	5:02pm	5.3m
Dover	Saturday	2:16pm	6.1m
	Sunday	3:01pm	5.9m
Dungeness	Saturday	2:33pm	7.1m
	Sunday	3:18pm	6.7m
Ramsgate	Saturday	2:46pm	4.6m
	Sunday	3:31pm	4.5m
Sheerness	Saturday	4:10pm	5.3m
	Sunday	4:51pm	5.1m
Whitstable	Saturday	3:59pm	4.9m
	Sunday	4:36pm	4.7m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	-1°C	Madrid	2°C
Athens	16°C	New York	3°C
Barcelona	6°C	Paris	2°C
Beijing	-3°C	Rome	11°C
Bombay	28°C	Sydney	30°C
Cape Town	23°C	Tenerife	22°C
Cardiff	6°C	Tokyo	5°C
Gibraltar	14°C	Vancouver	11°C
Hong Kong	11°C	Warsaw	-4°C
Las Palmas	23°C	Wellington	19°C



CHIPPING IN: Helen Grant with Chris Symons

Conservative candidate flips in McDonald's store

TORY hopeful Helen Grant has vowed to push forward with her Parliamentary dream despite developing a new found talent for flipping burgers.

The Conservative candidate for the Maidstone and Weald seat discovered her gift for fast food during a visit to McDonald's in Week Street.

Mrs Grant admitted to being a fan of the global Golden Arches food company's meals, saying: "I must confess to the odd quarter pounder with cheese every now and then, but usually I'll go for something slimmer from the healthy options menu."

The Tory was invited to the Maidstone McDonald's branch by franchisee Chris Symons.

She was set to work on both the grill and chip-pan stations – where she put together a Big Mac meal – and later listened to Mr Symons' economic crisis concerns.

The trip to McDonald's is the latest in a long series of visits by Mrs Grant to businesses in Maidstone.



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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

DAVID WRIGHT



Q What is the History of the IGA?

A We were created in 1974 in London by a consultant surgeon Ronald Pitts Crick. He believed that patients would be much more successful in their treatment if they understood exactly why they were being given the medication of the day. His guiding rule was that information about the condition should be the best possible quality and it should be free. We have been based in Ashford for five years.

Q How did you get involved?

A Both my parents were involved with the charity. They asked me to come in one day and put up some shelves and I never left.

Q What is Glaucoma how does it affect people's sight?

A Glaucoma is a term that can cover many conditions that can reduce people's eyesight. Our primary function is to advise people who are diagnosed with Glaucoma, reassure them and provide them with all the information they need to help them through it.

Our other main task is to raise awareness generally. We estimate there are half a million people in the UK with the condition and half of them have not been diagnosed. Most people are referred to an ophthalmologist after they've seen an optician. Glaucoma reduces sight from the periphery until it becomes tunnel vision. It's

such a slow insidious disease people don't realise there is anything wrong until there's been 40 per cent damage to the optic nerve. Once you've lost that you can't turn the clock back.

Q What should people do if they are worried about their eyesight?

A The first port of call will be the optician. If you are over 40 they should do four tests to check the range of your sight and measure the pressure in the eye. If that is too high they will refer you to your GP who will send you to a specialist. If there's any history of Glaucoma in your family you must tell the optician. If this is the case you get the eye test free. The hereditary element is a big factor.

Q Is it well known enough?

A More people are talking about it. Lorraine Tighe who was on The Apprentice has talked about her experiences and Emma Thompson and her mother have also talked about how it has affected their family. People associate the condition with age but the real message we want to get across is once you notice something might be wrong that can be too late. People need to start thinking about it in their 30s.

Q How does the International Aspect of the charity work?

A Our website has been translated into several languages and we get enquiries from other

countries who want to learn more about our experience and expertise. We helped Australia set up an organisation and we have also helped groups in France. We recently had a young man who was training to be an ophthalmologist from Nepal. He wanted to look at all the literature we have so he could translate it in his country. We've also funded £2.5 million of research into the condition in the last 10 years.

Q Should people be worried if there is a history of it in their family?

A When people are first diagnosed it can be a shock and they worry what it means for their future. This is where we can really help to reassure them that it can be treated. If people have a history of it in their family they may be worried about getting their eyes tested but it really is best they know so further reduction in the eyesight can be slowed. We had one patient diagnosed in his 30s and is still driving in his 70s.

Q How can people help?

A We receive no government funding so we are always looking for people to come up with any fundraising ideas. People can also distribute leaflets in their area or at work, or set up a support group. We run national Glaucoma week in June. If you want to know more about Glaucoma or are worried about your sight call Sightline on 01233 648170 or visit www.glaucoma-association.com.

Q & A

David Wright Chief Executive of International Glaucoma based in Ashford, talks to Ed Hill about the organisation and about the importance of raising awareness of the eye condition to save people's sight

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Gurkha veterans trapped by poverty despite settlement rights victory

THE victory in the campaign for Gurkha settlement rights has been dealt a bitter blow as retired soldiers in Nepal take desperate measures to pay their visa fees.

Some have turned to borrowing from illegal money lenders, while others have sold off precious Nepalese land to meet the £400 costs needed to settle in the UK.

Then Home Secretary Jacqui Smith announced in the House of Commons last May that all Gurkha soldiers with at least four years' service in the British Army will be allowed to live in this country.

But these former soldiers have come up against fees that in Nepal – one of the poorest countries in the world – are extortionate.

The average wage in Nepal is less than £150 a year, or about 35p a day.

Actress Joanna Lumley, whose father was a Gurkha officer, led the crusade for Gurkha rights alongside Shepway's Cllr Peter Carroll.

The Absolutely Fabulous star has now written to Home Secretary Alan Johnson asking

for him to waive the visa costs for the 178 retired Gurkhas. Mr Carroll, who founded the Gurkha Justice Campaign in 2004, said he hopes the Government will deal with the situation sensibly.

"Common sense should prevail and these visa fees should be waived," he said. "The costs for visas are per person, so for a family, where they have to pay for each member, it is extremely difficult. It's shocking that some are going to loan sharks and selling land."

Mr Carroll said the problem has not taken away the victory of the Gurkha campaign and he hoped the situation will be dealt with quickly by the Government.

Folkestone town councillor Dhan Gurung, who was the first Gurkha to take office in Britain, said ministers should have looked at how to deal with visas when the settlement rights were agreed.

"These new rights have not been implemented properly," he said. "Veterans who fought for this country returned to Nepal a

long time ago and don't have good pensions or earnings. Many of them are living in the hills and for some it takes days to collect their pension. These Gurkhas are even selling their property to pay for their visas."

He added that widows of former soldiers who are living in Kent have still not received official paperwork, meaning they have no rights to pensions.

"Asylum seekers come here with nothing and the Government supports them, but the Gurkhas have to look after themselves," he said. "We would be grateful if the Home Secretary waived the fees. These Gurkhas fought for this country and they deserve that. Gurkhas are living here but at a different standard to other people in the UK."

Shorncliffe Barracks in Folkestone is home to the 2nd Bn The Royal Gurkha Rifles, who are serving in Afghanistan, while nearly half the soldiers from the Maidstone-based 36 Engineers Regiment are Queen's Gurkha Engineers.



RANK AND SMILE: But retired Gurkhas in Nepal are suffering as they seek to relocate to the UK

County pulls plug on Kent TV

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

TAXPAYERS have not seen the last of council-run internet television despite County Hall's decision to axe its controversial Kent TV service.

Kent County Council has announced that the contract for the station – which was funded by £1.8 million of public money – will not be extended beyond March.

Launched in 2007 and run by Bob Geldof's Ten Alps production company, the website only attracted about 2,500 visitors per day and came under attack from the opposition and taxpayers who said it was a waste of money.

However, cabinet member for performance management Cllr Roger Gough said the council had not given up on digital media entirely.

He said: "I think we will look at how in other ways this technology can best be used. We want to talk to, and with, residents and internet video will be a part of that."

"We've spent a lot of money redesigning our website and are looking at ways we could use the best aspects of Kent TV on other platforms. There's no doubt we'll be making use of



UNDER FIRE: The much criticised Kent TV website will close in March, KCC has announced

parts of it. We're working through how we could do that, but this whole business is going to be dynamic over the next few years so it's important that we do."

Kent TV was intended to be self-funding through advertising by the end of its two-year pilot, but the station only made £10,000 from that source in its first seven months.

KCC originally budgeted £1.4 million for the trial and in 2008 set aside a further £350,000 to cover any extension, which was granted last September.

KCC put a new contract out to tender late last year but it is thought none of the firms who applied to take over management of the site could have done so without funding.

Cllr Gough said: "It was a tough decision but we have to set our priorities straight and the economic situation was a lot different in 2007."

"Kent TV did receive criticism but the critical thing here was finance and the environment we face. There were worthwhile programmes that we are proud of, but we had to consider where this stood in our priorities."

"Kent TV employed 11 people and it's not good for them, but we appreciate the work put in and this decision is no reflection on them."

Soap opera

Despite almost constant criticism of the internet station, KCC said it was contributing to future savings by delivering information direct to the public. Local businesses gained free publicity from the site, which also provided careers advice and information for tourists.

And an online soap opera promoting sexual health and personal safety for young adults attracted an average audience of just under 10,000 viewers per episode late last year.

However, Kent Labour leader Cllr Leslie Christie said the ruling Tory executive should apologise for wasting resources.

He said: "Kent TV's continuance would have been a political embarrassment to them. This administration has been whingeing for years that it doesn't get enough money from the Government, but wasted £1.8 million on this."

"It is not good enough to say, 'We are living in difficult economic times'. They owe an apology for wasting resources."

Lib Dem leader Cllr Trudy Dean claimed the Tories set up Kent TV to get around the normal ban on councils owning TV channels.

She added: "We have used every opportunity to expose the Conservatives' use of taxpayers' money to buy their own TV channel, and their attempts to exaggerate its performance."

"Much of the content was boring so the viewing figures were disappointing and the channel attracted no sponsorship. This decision is almost £2m too late."

Late last year KCC announced it was facing a £200 million funding shortfall over the next three years and that 600-700 County Hall jobs would be axed.

Tory leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "Kent TV was a brave and bold innovation and we learned a great deal from it. However, we are living in different economic times. Our spending has to be prioritised. We have therefore decided that Kent TV will not continue when the pilot ends in March."

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Offenders taught the value of saying 'sorry'

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

A SCHEME allowing first-time offenders to avoid punishment by apologising for their actions is to be rolled out across Kent.

The restorative justice programme has been piloted in towns and villages since last year and has proved so successful that police want every neighbourhood in the county to benefit.

It gives wrongdoers the opportunity to talk to their victims about the impact of their offences, and possibly avoid receiving criminal records by offering apologies instead. Det Insp Steve Woollett said he hoped the scheme would result in reduced crime rates in the long term, as those who have to face up to their actions are unlikely to offend again.

He added: "Evidence shows it is a very powerful tool. We want to use it as an alternative to criminalising people for low-level crimes."

"This gives officers the opportunity to use their discretion to sort issues out rather than arresting people unnecessarily."

"Evidence also shows people want apologies, they want reassurances it won't happen again and they want to see the individual make good. When cases are dealt with in this way, often the culprit will not re-offend. It also gives

closure to the victims, as they get to ask questions as to why."

The restorative justice programme was trialled last year in the Cheriton, Morehall, Hawkinge and Lydd areas of south Kent, as well as the Maidstone East, Staplehurst and Shepway wards of mid-Kent.

It was also recently launched in Tunbridge Wells, and was used to deal with a group of hoodies who regularly congregated outside a shop.



STEVE WOOLLETT

An elderly man complained to police that he was too afraid to enter the store when the youngsters were present, so officers set up a meeting between the two sides.

Det Insp Woollett said the hoodies told the man they did not mean to cause alarm by their appearance, and now say hello whenever they see him.

He added: "This is a commonsense way of dealing with problems in the community, bringing people together and resolving issues."

Restorative justice can be used for incidents ranging from minor antisocial behaviour such as graffiti, up to more serious crimes including assault and robbery.

It does not always prevent offenders from being formally warned or reprimanded within the justice system, and can also be used after conviction for more serious crimes.

Officers across the force are now being trained in restorative justice, learning how it works and when it can be used.



ON THE BEAT: PCSO Dave Ansbro - with Borden resident Jim Wood - logging concerns on his hand-held device

Cutting out the form-filling

BOBBIES on the beat have been kitted out with new hi-tech devices allowing them to log local concerns at the touch of a button.

Constables and community support officers can use the BlackBerry-style technology to record information when talking to residents.

It allows them to build up a database of the age, gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation of complainants, as well as the problems common for a particular area.

Insp Evan Jones, of the Sittingbourne neighbourhood team, said: "This technology allows officers to find out exactly what people's concerns are and how we can help them."

"There are no forms to fill in back at the

station. The data can be fed into our computer system within minutes, so officers can remain out on the beat."

The technology was launched in mid-Kent in December and six neighbourhood teams covering Faversham, Sittingbourne, the Isle of Sheppey and Maidstone have access to it.

More than 2,300 people have helped officers identify problems with issues such as littering, dog mess, speeding and graffiti.

Residents can also take part in local Partners and Community Together meetings, Have Your Say days or by contacting their neighbourhood officer.

Details for all three can be found at www.kent.police.uk.

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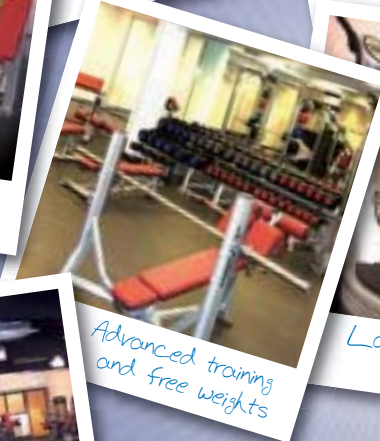
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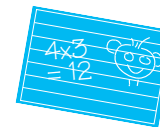


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BREAK TIME

Academy option
for Astor of Hever

A COMPREHENSIVE secondary school could be closed by the end of the year and replaced with a new academy.

The proposed changes for Astor of Hever Community School are led by Kent County Council in partnership with Woodard Schools.

If approved, the plans would include a new academy at the site in Oakwood Road, which will specialise in humanities and offer an extended timetable of breakfast clubs, after-school facilities and evening and weekend services for the community.

All pupils currently at Astor of Hever will be transferred to the new academy, which will have spaces for 950 students.

The academy would initially open in the existing buildings in January 2011 then move to purpose-built accommodation in 2014.

Existing staff, pupils and parents attended a consultation day at the school for the proposed Woodard Academy on Thursday, February 4.

Representatives from the applicant explained it wants to inspire students to have a 'can do' attitude, to engage in the community, excel at individual goals and take advantage of partnerships with organisations and businesses.

The proposal is expected to be finalised by March.

Woodard Schools was founded in 1947 by Nathaniel Woodard, a former priest of the Church of England, and is now the largest independent schools group from the church in the UK.

Other Woodard Schools sites in Kent include those in Gravesend, Orpington, Belvedere and Rochester.

Tasmin plays into the net
as pupils prepare for camp

■ BY ANNA WHITE

ATHLETIC schoolchildren have been learning new sporting tips from top England netball star Tasmin Greenway.

The wing attack national player visited the youngsters at Sutton Valence School as part of a scheme to promote sport through a series of holiday netball camps.

During her visit the talented sporting star put children of all ages through their paces to help prepare them for the upcoming camps.

The national netballer ran a two-hour training session with the 26 girls aged 15 to 18 and then another with pupils in Years 8 to 10.

She will also be able to work with four students – Charlotte Crouch, Molly Stevens, Betsy Nally and Lotte Liejzen – who all currently play netball at county level.

The 28-year-old then went to the Sutton Valence Preparatory School, in Chart Sutton, where the younger students were able to show-off the skills they have learnt in their own after-school netball club.

This year is the first time the net-it scheme will be held on Sutton Valence's courts and will take place in Easter, summer and October half terms.

Courses available will be England International and Superleague-led Junior Netball camps.

Saul Fyne, net-it director, said: "We are very excited to be coming to the Maidstone area and using Sutton Valence School courts as a venue.



ON THE BALL: Tasmin Greenway with pupils Charlotte McVarish, Kaya Jago, Charlotte Douglass and Lucy Baxter

"We want to encourage more young people to keep up netball after they leave school, if only for fitness and enjoyment."

The Maidstone-based school already encourages a wide range of sporting activities in its curriculum and after-school clubs.

It even offers scholarships for students who are academically talented in sport, as well as other areas.

Many of its students are currently competing at their chosen sport at various levels – including national.

Greenway, from Trowbridge, Wilts, plays for Surrey Storm – the superleague franchise for London and the South-East.

She was also in the World Championship Netball squad in 2007 and currently plays wing attack for the England Senior Team.

Greenway is one the scheme's five specialist coaches, including her England team mates Rachel Dunn, Pamela Cookey and Eboni Beckford-Chambers.

For details of the netball courses, visit www.net-it.org or call 01273 771877.

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Continuing work to improve gay rights around the world

FEBRUARY 2010 sees the latest LGBT History Month and this year – on the plus side – Kent Police, whom I've liaised with for ten years or so, have just achieved ninth place on the recent Stonewall (gay rights group) best employers list.

Further, Kent County Council has organised a 'Same-Sex holding hands photo exhibition at County Hall by involving locals and youngsters in particular to take part. They also surveyed on a range of minority group issues asking how best they can assist each group. Many Libraries continue to have LGBT books and DVD's available and I urge people, gay or straight, to take them out. All this helps to move things on even further from the bad old days of local Section 28 policies etc.

Kent Fire and Rescue have also been active, both at gay Pride events and advertising their

services, as well as for staff in gay magazines.

Pride in Canterbury continues to campaign and later this year Thanet gay Pride is set for July 17 in Margate and they will no doubt be advertising this soon.

On the downside, there's been a four-fold increase in attacks on minority groups including gays in the UK, attributed to the recession. This though is no excuse. The recent conviction of a man in Bromley for a murderous attack on a gay couple shows both the risks we gay people still face as well as the action that can be taken. The murderer received a 32-year sentence!

I therefore urge all LGBT people to continue to report any attacks/abuse, even verbal ones, on the countywide freephone link 0800 328 9162.

Even minor ones, as it gives the authorities an idea of where trouble spots are. In solidarity, any racist attacks, whether on straights or gays, should be reported via freephone 0800 138 1624.

Worldwide sees varied reports. China instituted gay cafes and nearly allowed a gay pageant, but this was stopped by police over

'supposed' procedural matters. Seems operating even slightly outside state sponsorship there can be tricky. In Mumbai, India, things appear to be slowly improving but in Africa it's far worse for LGBT persons especially in Uganda, Malawi and Nigeria, though Rwanda and South Africa may be brighter spots.

Campaigner Peter Tatchell and people around the world, including many politicians, have been campaigning against the hatred that's inspired by both old colonial-laws and religion.

On religion, we've seen the departure of two homophobic CofE Bishops in Kent, Nazir Ali at Rochester and to an extent, S Venner at Dover, but the Pope is due in the UK in September and will address both houses of Parliament. It's likely many groups will be wanting a word about his, and the Church's, ongoing opposition to progress on many social and sexuality issues.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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Write to The Editor, Yourmaidstone, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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Whether it's taking some time out for yourself or finding the perfect opportunity to get together with the girls, this year's Vitality Show is the ideal place to be – and we've got ten pairs of tickets to give away PLUS great goodies from some of the exhibitors!

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to

Vitality Show Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is March 10, 2010.

Question: Where is the Vitality Show being held?

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4'x4'	Beige Wool Twist	£19	FREE	5'3"x16'	Cream Thick Saxony	£89	FREE	3'9"x16'	Blue Twist Pile	£25	FREE				
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TALK TIME

RACHEL COPPINS

The volunteer talks about her work with youngsters and what the involved team offers



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I am the Youth Volunteer Advisor for the Kent & Medway invovlved Team which is a service of Voluntary Action within Kent. invovlved is the national youth volunteering programme created by v, the independent charity whose aim is to inspire a new generation of young volunteers and create a culture where volunteering comes naturally.

What is your job at invovlved?

My role is to create and develop new and exciting volunteering opportunities for 16 to 25 year olds. I work with organisations and projects to help them set up opportunities for young people that are both diverse and inspiring. I then recruit volunteers through schools, colleges and the wider community.

How can people get in touch?

They can call me on 07939 933815 or 01227 455187, or alternatively send me a message on Facebook. My user name is Rachel Vsu.

YOUR LETTERS

Graveyard used as public toilet, say angry workers



Cemetery has been abused for years

I live near the graveyard mentioned in the article on last week's Yourmaidstone page three and often see people using it as a public toilet.

It is also regularly used as a meeting place for youngsters and homeless people to drink alcohol. It has been used in this way for many years, so I am pleased to see someone has finally brought it to your attention, hopefully now something will be done about it.

I think the people abusing the graveyard do not see it as a place loved ones were put to rest but as a shaded area away from town and the authorities.

Perhaps if more was done to maintain the graves and security was stepped up they wouldn't use it anymore, but then they would probably find another public area to ruin.

Russell Thomas, Brewer Street
By email

Action needs to be taken to stop jobs

I was shocked to read your article last week, on page three, about the way some disrespectful people use a graveyard in Maidstone town centre.

If the cemetery was by a church in a village this would not happen, but because it's in a town and near offices some people think it's acceptable. I think it is disgusting behaviour.

How would they like it if someone was urinating on their mother or father's grave? I doubt very much they would approve. It's all well and good saying the situation is being monitored by police, but something needs to be done to stop it. These jobs should be caught and prosecuted for anti-social behaviour.

Maureen Bell, Heath Road, Coxheath
By letter

But we need all services at hospital

After reading the story about the launch of the new pathology lab at Maidstone Hospital, I was first of all pleased to see the hospital

is developing its services, but then I remembered it is the same NHS Trust board which is taking away our maternity unit.

If the NHS Trust wants to develop and enhance the Maidstone site then why are they moving the consultant-led services to another hospital?

They seem to be creating 'super' hospitals which offer various departments, at two different locations.

Surely it would be better to have the same high-quality services at both hospitals rather than splitting them between the two?

The residents of Maidstone and

Tunbridge Wells deserve to have all healthcare services, not just a selection.

Sharon Bubbs, Barming
By email



Teachers did not get an extra holiday

I read your blog about lazy teachers taking holiday at the first sign of snow.

I am a teacher, and had been perfectly prepared to get into work, and did on two days when some neighbours (not teachers) did not. It is not teachers who decide if a school is shut it is a decision made by a headteacher based quite rightly on a specific set of circumstances.

If the school site is dangerous (there is only so much caretakers can do to prevent things like ice) I can guarantee some litigious parents might see this as a cash cow. The roads outside many schools, including footpaths, were



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dangerously icy this year as these were not gritted.

Also I am not aware of any of my colleagues who had a 'holiday'. I used it to plan lessons and to catch up with my workload, teachers usually work late into the night, on weekends and during 'holidays' to stay on top of things.

If teaching was so easy and teachers so lazy one wonders why so many have left and leave the profession early? As a late entrant to the profession myself my previous career was much less stressful and involved much less work. Also no one seems to mention that teachers are doomed never to get a cheap holiday during termtime.

If I wanted a lazy job I could go and do some office work, then I might have time to indulge in Facebook, twitter etc. However ultimately I am a professional, who wishes to impart the best quality education I can to tomorrow's workforce, so I suppose I shall remain in the classroom.

Gavin Gray, by email

My school was fully staffed during snow

In our school it is not the teachers who make the decision to close, it's

the headteacher so please do not blame the teachers.

In my school we all went to work every day and completed our nine hour working day in school and still took work home every night.

Margaret Wittich, by email

Brush up on your child's oral health

The UK's leading oral health charity has urged the Government to focus on the prevention of dental decay in under 5s following a new report into children's health.

The British Dental Health Foundation is calling for more awareness after a report by the Audit Commission highlighted the increasing gap in health care between children in deprived communities compared to the rest of the population.

The independent watchdog figures show around 150,000 more children have decayed, missing and filled teeth in spearhead areas compared with the rest of the country – this has increased dramatically over the last ten years.

It was determined that children living in disadvantaged areas are 54 per cent more likely to live in workless households and face poorer

health conditions than under fives in less deprived areas. Out of these children one in five have been judged to have poor dental health.

Evidence shows establishing good oral health during a child's early years may play a vital role in regards to better health in later life, with diminished levels of heart disease, strokes and diabetes.

The report also demonstrated that children from minority groups have poorer health levels, with parents less likely to take advantage of mainstream health services.

Dental disease is the most common preventable childhood disease. Parents are responsible for helping their children to develop a good oral health routine and ensure regular visits to the dentist.

The main cause of tooth decay is not the amount of sugar or acid in the diet, but how often it is eaten or drunk – the more often a child has sugary or acidic foods or drinks, the more likely they are to have decay.

It is important to keep sugary and acidic foods to mealtimes only. If you want to give your child a snack, try to stick to cheese, vegetables and fruit, but not dried fruit.

For information and expert advice on your children's teeth call the Dental Helpline on 0845 063 1188, or see www.dentalhealth.org.

Dr Nigel Carter, by email



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Top line-up takes to the stage for Haiti benefit gig



■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

A CHARITY fundraising gig in aid of the people of Haiti after last month's devastating earthquake is being held at Folkestone's Quarterhouse venue tonight.

A wide variety of music from punk and indie to country blues will be on stage in order to cater for as many tastes as possible and help raise money for the estimated two million left homeless by the disaster.

Janine Gray, who helped organise the gig, said: "I have so far found everyone we approached to be incredibly generous with their time and money."

"Googies Art Cafe raised £280 towards our fund already and the Quarterhouse staff have been incredibly helpful – I know we are going to have a huge list of people to thank by the end of this project."

"I am really excited by the line-up so far – we have one or two more things in the pipeline to announce yet."

Chatham man Pete Molinari, who was discovered by Billy Childish, is arguably the biggest draw of the night.

The blues guitarist will perform a number of his self-penned tracks, which have drawn comparisons to Dylan, Guthrie and other inspired greats.

The Archie Wah Wahs, a band described as playing catchy ska songs with lyrics about broken hearts and unhappy endings, combined with feelings of optimism and hopefulness, are also on the bill.

Grunge folk artist Tess, one of the people



DOING THEIR BIT: Medway's Pete Molinari, left, will join The Dealers, above, at the Quarterhouse's fundraising gig

behind the Zig Zag festival, will be previewing tracks from his forthcoming album Magpie, with his distinctive dynamic style, introspective lyrics and memorable guitar playing.

And Pierre Vincent's band The Dealers will be showcasing their new line-up, which includes violinist Gemma and percussionist Malcolm, playing tracks from album Charcoal on Black Paper together with a back catalogue of self-penned material and the odd well-chosen cover.

Fellow organiser John Baker, who runs the County Hardware shop in Cheriton, said "I really felt that I wanted to do something that would be a great fundraiser for the benefit of the earthquake victims."

"We hope to give music fans a terrific night out at the new arts venue Quarterhouse at the same time."

There will also be a charity raffle or auction for prizes and other events. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets cost £8 in advance or £9 on the door. Visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk.

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DOUBLE WHAMMY: Pop duo Callista perform Kings of Leon's Use Somebody.



ROCKING IT: UpCDownC play songs from their set on The Ether.



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 The Suspects - 27/2 King Edward VII, Margate
- 2 Craig Sheridan - 27/2 The Alma, Deal
- 3 Shelta - 5/3 Water Rats, Grays Inn Road
- 4 Audio Bullies - 19/3 Westcoast Bar, Margate
- 5 Rock Night (various artists, including Colt 44) King Edward VII, Margate

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Amy Winehouse
Friday 18th March
Dinner and drinks
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Heroes Ball
Friday 18th March
Dinner and drinks
£25.00

THE GODFATHER OF SUNDAY LUNCHES IS HERE!
£15.00 per person
SATURDAY 13th NOVEMBER

Do you, VILLAGE Maidstone, offer music for you? We do.

UpCDownC
Friday 18th March
Dinner and drinks
£25.00

THE Vibe at Village
Friday 18th March
Dinner and drinks
£25.00

Motown night
Friday 18th March
Dinner and drinks
£25.00

Flies Brothers
Friday 18th March
Dinner and drinks
£25.00

Heroes Ball
Friday 18th March
Dinner and drinks
£25.00

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THE Vibe at Village
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Dinner and drinks
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Friday 18th March
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THE GODFATHER OF SUNDAY LUNCHES IS HERE!
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Do you, VILLAGE Maidstone, offer music for you? We do.

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CAPELLI Hair is a unisex salon established four years ago in a premises which has been a hairdressers for years.

It is a very friendly local salon offering everything from up-to-the-minute colouring techniques to more traditional hair styling.

Sarah Tappenden runs the popular salon and is proud to call herself a one man band.

"I offer a warm, friendly and caring service – clients are my friends and are not just there to pay the bills," she said.

"I have always been interested in people and their looks and went to Thanet Technical College to study both hairstyling and business.

"My friend owned the business originally and approached me to see if I would like to take over a hairstyling business in the heart of Sutton Valence – an attractive and thriving village."

The salon is housed in a building which

belongs to Sutton Valence School and is part of the faculty's historic site.

Sarah explained what is currently popular among clients who want to ensure that their crowning glory is kept up to standard.

"I try to keep my treatments affordable and accessible for everybody as well as keep up with current colouring trends. Colour service is definitely one of the most popular at the moment."

Capelli Hair, High Street, Sutton Valence ME17 3AG. Call: 01622 843 462.



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Three hours after exercise, you should consume a regular meal (with protein in it) to continue the muscle rebuilding process. Do not 'treat' yourself to sweets or alcohol as your muscles will still be crying out for protein. Call: 01622 656944.

Kings Hill Medical Practice

If you have any health concerns do not hesitate to contact the practice for well-informed advice on all treatments and services that are on offer. Staff are always on hand to help with any queries or questions. Call: 01732 844244.

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Having a wardrobe spring clean-de-cluttering is liberating to make way for new bright handbags and accessories in this season's colours: purple is big, green is gorgeous, coral is chic, grey is great. So get set to sparkle for spring! Call: 01303 814600.

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Brothers in arms

Enthralling musical tells tale of twin brothers thrown together by a twist of fate after being separated at birth

BLOOD BROTHERS

Thursday, February 23 to Saturday, February 27
Assembly Halls Theatre, Tunbridge Wells



FAMILY ties refuse to be broken in Willy Russell's enduringly popular musical, *Blood Brothers*.

The record-breaking show has been thrilling audiences since 1988 and continues to enthrall with its tale of twin brothers separated at birth.

Set in Liverpool, the show is one of the longest-running musicals in history and has enjoyed a record-breaking run on Broadway, where it was nominated for seven Tony Awards.

Now this moving story of two brothers whose fates are intertwined comes to Kent, supported by KOS Media.

When Mrs Johnstone discovers that she is pregnant with twins, financial desperation forces her to confront a heartbreaking dilemma.

Her wealthy employer is unable to have children and is keen to take one of the babies off her hands, so Mrs Johnstone reluctantly agrees to the deal and promises never to reveal the truth.

Over the years, the boys grow up on opposite sides of the tracks and it appears that their lives could not be more different. All the while, they are watched by Mrs Johnstone who continues to guard her increasingly painful secret. But a twist of fate will put them on a collision course as it becomes clear that blood really is thicker than water.

For this tour, the role of Mrs Johnstone is played by former *New Seekers* star, Lyn Paul. She first played the role in 1997 and is considered by many fans to be the quintessential Mrs Johnstone, bringing out the character's grief and love in a remarkable way and belting out the tunes with her fantastic voice.

The show's memorable score is renowned for its honest and moving lyrics, including the songs *A Bright New Day*, *Marilyn Monroe* and *Tell Me It's Not True*.

Willy Russell is a renowned writer with a number of notable plays under his belt, including *Educating Rita* and *Shirley Valentine*, both of which were made into hit films. He has also written films, books and film scores and is considered one of the most successful playwrights of his generation.

Tickets are priced from £14.50 to £30.50. To book call the box office on 01892 530613/532072 or visit the website at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.



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with
JANE CONNOLLY
Email jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk



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JEFF LANG

Friday, February 19
Village Hall, Hunton



VIRTUOSO guitarist Jeff Lang has travelled from the other side of the world to perform for a Kent audience.

The highly respected Australian musician performs in hypnotic style, captivating listeners with his sweet vocals and astonishing talent.

Anyone who can count such acclaimed artists as Richard Thompson and John Butler among his fans must be worth listening to, so do not miss the chance to see him perform this week.

Transcending the boundaries of traditional folk, blues, country and other roots music, Lang's sound has secured a unique niche in the music world.

Over the last decade he has built a strong fan base in the US, Europe and Australia, winning new admirers with his constant touring and continually evolving sound.

A favourite on the festival circuit, he has also toured with Bob Dylan, Ani Di Franco, Dr John, Loudon Wainwright III and many



other artists. He is currently touring to promote his 16th album, Half Seas Over, which received a four-star review from Rolling Stone magazine.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £8. To book call 01622 820683/820127.

MAIDSTONE LEISURE

My Fair Lady near a street where you live

WOULDN'T it be lovely to enjoy a classic musical performed in Tonbridge this week?

Surrey Opera presents My Fair Lady, the popular story of a Cockney flower girl who is transformed into a lady.

The is at the EM Forster Theatre at Tonbridge School from tomorrow until to Saturday.

Performances start at 7.30pm daily, with a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday, and tickets cost £19.50/£17.50, concessions available. To book call 01732 304241.

Dance company to show how much it has evolved

WITNESS the evolution of talented dancers when the Hazlitt Theatre hosts a showcase by Directions Performing Arts.

Two years after their first performance on the Hazlitt stage, the company returns with its new show Evolution, in which students demonstrate their exciting talent.

The show is at the theatre from today until Saturday. Tickets are £11/£9.50. Book online at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk or call the box office on 01622 758611.

Local band celebrating a decade of performing

FACE to Face celebrated their 10th anniversary on the circuit last year.

The local band covers rock hits with vocals from a female singer who has been leading the band for more than a decade.

See at the Walnut Tree in Forge Lane, East Farleigh, at 9pm tomorrow. For more information call 01622 726368.

Acoustic selection from accomplished guitarist

FROM rock and pop to blues and acoustic, Paul Wells has more than 30 years' experience as a guitarist.

On Friday he will be playing songs by a wide variety of artists when he visits a pub in Maidstone. Find out more about him at www.paulwellsolo.piczo.com.

Paul is playing at the Bower Inn in Tonbridge Road at 9pm. For more information about the pub call 01622 677181.

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PAUL DUNTON & GUESTS

Thursday, February 18
Pizza Express, Maidstone



DISCOVER the county's best unsigned music acts as the Paul Dunton & Guests showcase returns to Maidstone.

Held twice weekly in Tunbridge Wells, the candlelit event gives a platform for local acts and reveals the wealth of talent that Kent has to offer. Now Dunton brings the show to the Music Room at Pizza Express for another evening of great music.

Walking on Sunday is an engaging trio whose alternative acoustic style also includes

hints of melodic pop. Next on the bill is an atmospheric performance from Dunton and his orchestral Crew, playing his piano pop with a classical twist.

With talented guitarist Marc Brereton and captivating vocalist Charlotte Brereton, The Original Sinners will grip the audience with their blend of southern rock and blues, laced with sweet country melodies.

The headline act will be Tom Williams and The Boat (pictured), a six-piece 'anti-folk' band from Tunbridge Wells who made a big noise at Radio One's Big Weekend in Maidstone in 2008.

Doors open at 7pm and tickets cost £7. To book call 0845 602 7017 or visit www.pizza-expresslive.com.



Beat It, The Girl is Mine, Earth Song, Man in the Mirror, ABC, Smooth Criminal, You Rock My World, Billie Jean, Don't Stop Til You Get Enough and many more.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £23.50/£22.50. To book call 01634 338338 or visit www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk.

WHO'S BAD

Wednesday, February 24
Central Theatre, Chatham



CELEBRATE the legacy of a pop legend when top tribute band Who's Bad visits Medway.

From the early days of the Jackson Five through to his solo glory years, the career of Michael Jackson is explored with a whistle-stop tour through the decades.

Complete with glittering gloves and glitzy jackets, Who's Bad is an infectious party show that will have both Jackson devotees and fans of great pop music tapping their toes.

Who's Bad was formed in 2004 and since the death of Jackson last year, it has become a fantastic way for fans to pay tribute to the legendary artist.

Direct from the US, the show is visiting just two Kent venues during this tour and promises to entertain audiences with outstanding music, moves and memories.

The song list includes such timeless hits as Thriller, The Way You Make Me Feel, Bad,

ON GENERAL RELEASE

EDGE OF DARKNESS (15)



Mel Gibson and Ray Winstone star in this dark thriller, adapted from a 1985 BBC mini-series. Gibson plays a veteran detective forced to investigate the murder of his daughter after she's killed in front of him.

PONYO (U)



This is the latest animated masterpiece from Oscar-winning anime legend Hayao Miyazaki, drawing on Hans Christian Andersen's fairy-tale The Little Mermaid for inspiration.

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (U)



Walt Disney makes a break with tradition by casting its first-ever African-American princess in this enchanting reworking of the classic Grimm Brothers' fairytale.

Del Toro has a few hairy moments in newest role

■ BY DAMON SMITH

SOME of cinema's most iconic creatures including Count Dracula, Frankenstein's monster and The Mummy hark back to the golden age of Universal Studios in the 1930s and 1940s, when Boris Karloff, Bela Lugosi and Claude Rains stalked the big screen with malicious intent.

The furry fiend known as The Wolf Man first howled at the silvery moon in 1941, with a suitably hirsute Lon Chaney Jr in the lead role.

Almost 70 years later, the eponymous beast runs free again across the blood-spattered English countryside in director Joe Johnston's affectionate remake.

Gleefully gory and tongue-in-cheek camp, The Wolfman is a diverting yarn, so long as you accept the film in the spirit it is intended; as a B-movie with expensive make-up and visual effects.

The film opens by establishing the existence of the voracious creature in the woods surrounding the late 19th century hamlet of Blackmoor.

At the behest of his brother's fiancée, Gwen Conliffe (Emily Blunt), stage actor Lawrence Talbot (Benicio Del Toro) returns to the sleepy community to help search for his sibling Ben, who has vanished without trace.

After a fractious reunion with his estranged father (Sir Anthony Hopkins) and manservant Singh, Lawrence discovers that Ben is dead, eviscerated by a creature of the night.

Scotland Yard Inspector Aberline arrives in Blackmoor to investigate the brutal slaying, and witnesses the devastation of the beast



HAIR-RAISING: Benicio Del Toro plays The Wolfman

firsthand after it attacks Lawrence and leaves its mark upon the nobleman.

Lawrence grows ever closer to Gwen and as the next full moon looks down upon the village, something ungodly stirs in the Talbot mansion, hungry for human flesh...

With graphic scenes of mutilation, decapitation and dismemberment, The Wolfman certainly doesn't stint on the fake blood as the tit-

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ular predator slashes through an entire supporting cast, and a few of the lead actors too.

Director Johnston orchestrates some tense set pieces, with the requisite edge-of-seat jolts and scares. The lighting design is especially effective, concealing characters and their sins in the shadows, lit by the occasional flash from a gun barrel.

Lawrence and Gwen's romance is too hurried to be credible, undermining the tearful finale.

Antony Sher out-camps the lot of them with a ridiculous accent as Dr Hoenninger, the London-based medic who foolishly believes Lawrence's lycanthropy is all in his tortured mind.

He'll learn... the hard way.

THE WOLFMAN Certificate 15

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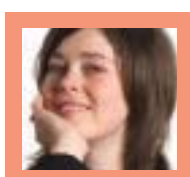
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WOMEN seeking men

MATCH OF THE DAY! Fun-to-be with, blonde female, 25, 5'2", a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

LOOKIN 4 A GUY WHO'S EASY ON THE EYE! 25yr old female, 5'8, medium-curved build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, W/LTM tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT... Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5'11, loves films, walking, darts, pop, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

SOUND GOOD? Social lady, 29, likes walks, swimming, vjsh, like to meet a man, 30-55 for lots of fun. Brighton. Box 463984

FANCY A CUDDLE? Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5'8, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326

COULD I BE THE ONE? Single mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 464835

HORSES FOR COURSES... Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, W/LTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

A FAIRYTALE ENDING! Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5'8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957

STARRY NIGHTS Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair, enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME... Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5'3, shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453030

SEALED WITH A KISS Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079

GROW OLD WITH ME Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring. I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164

SEIZE THE DAY Loving female, 36, 5'4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 42866

LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 36, 5'4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

HISTORIC MEETING? Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 404693

CUTE AS CAN BE Cute single mum, 37, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983

AN AFRICAN DIAMOND 38yr old African girl, likes cooking, going out, watching films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companionship and more. Box 446676

DON'T LET ME DOWN Pretty, black female, 38, 5'4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684

FAMILY ORIENTATED Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5'8, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034

EASY TO LOVE Lovely African female, 39, 5'4, likes football, socialising, cinema, and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male for a LTR. Ashford. Box 460968



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FROM ME TO YOU Lonely and bored single professional Asian lady, 40, seeks genuine single solvent professional white male, 40-50, for companionship and more. Tunbridge Wells. Box 464925

SHOW ME HEAVEN Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area, W/LTM a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608

CALL ME Single, Asian lady, 41, living in Tunbridge Wells. I'm easygoing and fun loving and W/LTM single male to spend time with. Box 465481

TAKE A LITTLE TIME Social lady, 41, 5'3", gosh, likes family life, going out, cinema, walks, staying in, seeking a fun male for company. Sheerness. Box 461145

TLC ON OFFER Bubbly, happy, outgoing 41yr old female, enjoy life to the full, like writing, walking, watching DVDs, W/LTM like-minded, happy-go-lucky, clean male for friendship and more. Box 459271

FOR A RELATIONSHIP? Shy but confident once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys the theatre, music and eating out, W/LTM a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

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DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU? Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5'8, dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving male, 5'10+, Box 461129

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5'10, likes bowling, eating out etc, looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gosh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

SHOW ME LOVE Active sporty female, 43, enjoys the usual things in life, looking for someone genuine and honest, initially for friendship but then who knows? Tunbridge Wells. Box 866335

STAY TRUE Attractive, curvy, single mum, size 18, 44, kind, genuine, 5'5", loyal, loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 461830

HOW YOU DOING? Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY Bubbly female, 44, brunette, 165, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955

ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL Young-looking 46yr old female, 5'4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5'10, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938

TAKE IT EASY Maidstone female, 47, looking for someone just for initial company and friendship. Many interests including gardening, cooking and shopping. Box 464973

YOUNG AT HEART Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, Worldly Man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113

MY PRINCE? Dog lover, into sports, walks, motorbikes, GSOH, female, 47, pretty, long dark hair, looking for knight in shining armor! East Sussex area. Box 872961

NORMAL GAL Female, 48, divorced, happy, looking for the one, friendship, laughter, looking for smart, genuine, kind tall honest man, age under 50 is all I ask. Maidstone. Box 865980

ETERNALLY YOURS Easygoing single mum, likes most things in life: country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5'12, medium build, W/LTM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME? Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366

HELP ME OPEN UP Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, W/LTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585

STIMULATING COMPANY Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46, W/LTM nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box 396829

MAKE IT ENJOYABLE Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686

ANY TAKERS? Divorced single mum, 49, 5'4, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 464557

HERE AND NOW Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524

JUST IMAGINE Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, W/LTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 863562

THE RIGHT FIT Big lady (5'1), looking for decent, genuine man. I'm attractive, and very loving so go on, give me a try! I like cooking and family life. Box 862885

AWAY WE GO Cranky young-at-heart lady, 52, 5'10, enjoys simple pleasures...dancing, walks, people, attempting art and poetry, W/LTM new male friends for socialising, laughter and moving on. Box 870417

HIT THE JACKPOT Good-looking female, 50, looking for a kind, reliable and honest man, must be a moderate drinker, for companionship and romance. Box 878216

CARING & PROFESSIONAL Female 49, 5'4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 417100

LOVELY BUBBLY Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gosh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311

IT COULD BE US Happy-go-lucky lady, 53, 5'13, slim, blonde-brown hair, blue eyes looking for a tall, honest guy, for love and laughter and happy times. South Kent. Box 464001

WOULD LIKE TO BE HAPPY Looking for someone who enjoys the simple things in life; wind and rain in my face, 53, red hair, warm holidays love mowing the lawn. Box 860558

A HIGHER LOVE Looking for that special person, I'm a genuine lady, 54 but don't feel it! I'd like to meet someone to love and care for. Canterbury. Box 857551

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL... Young-looking, hard-working lady, 54, enjoys the country-side, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863

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MEN seeking women

EASILYING IN FOLKESTONE Friendly, genuine fun loving male, 27, dark hair, medium build, I love clubbing, cinema, and travelling. Would love to hear from you. Kent. Box 859052

GIVE IT A WHIRL Single dad, 34, 6ft, stocky, gosh, seeking a fun and caring single lady for true romance. Maidstone. Box 462509

A GOOD LAUGH Single dad, 34, 6ft, brown hair, blue eyes, looking for a female to share days out, nights out and good times with. Maidstone. Box 462510

IS THERE AN OUT THERE FOR ME? Nice guy, 33, 5'9, slim, likes bike rides and pubs, looking for a nice female for a good relationship. Sittingbourne. Box 465279

ALL LIFE HAS TO OFFER Attractive, respectable British Asian male, 35, black hair, golden skin, muscular build, enjoys conversations, cooking, walks, picnics, DIY seeks a slim, sensible, fun woman. Maidstone. Box 462597

TAKE THE PLUNGE Slim, sporty male, 35, 6ft, blue eyes, blonde hair, likes sports, football, pubs, clubs, romantic night in/out, seeking a caring lady for a life. Aylesford. Box 460136

BOTTLE OF WINE Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5'8, medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165

IS ANYBODY OUT THERE? Fit, active male, I'm single, good looking, 40yrs old. I like cinema, walks, and eating in and out. Ashford area. Box 465487

LET ME LOVE YOU Happy-go-lucky male, 36, 6'2", GSOH, large build, blue eyes/brown hair, likes socialising, relaxing weekends, loves children; seeks caring, honest female for TLC and love. Box 384903

THE GOOD LIFE Young looking male, 39, quiet guy, looking for a LTR, want to relax and enjoy life together with the right woman. Box 858113

BURSTING WITH LOVE Shy 39 year old man, caring with big heart, looking for that someone to share my life with, into sport, films and having fun. Margate. Box 859647

MAKE ME LAUGH Hard working male, 39, kind, GSOH, intelligent, modest! Likes cooking, the countryside & nights out, seeks fun female for relationship. Maidstone. Box 464266

FISHING & CAMPING! Fun-loving male, 40, not of many words, likes sports, music, reading and films, seeks company and companion. Snodland. Box 465333

LOOKING FOR A BIRDIE! Hi there, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer! Looking for loving companion. Box 450317

RECIPE FOR ROMANCE Brighton based man, 41, 5'10, slim build, shaved head, looking for fun loving lady to share good times, enjoys cooking, reading and walking. Box 465037

HOW ABOUT TODAY? Looking for love and relationship with nice, genuine woman. I'm male, 42, 5'8, brown hair/blue eyes, enjoys cycling, films, eating in and out. Kent. Box 463958



MEN seeking women

ROMANTIC TYPE Caring, romantic and loyal gent, 45yrs young, 5'11, slim build, blue eyes/brown hair, I like walks, music, animals and pubs. Hastings/Bexhill/Eastbourne areas. Box 465613

ALONG THE SHORE Romantic male, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", caring and loving, likes cooking holidays, the countryside, bowling, cinema, seeking a similar lady 34-56. Ashford. Box 465817

BE MINE Slim male, 44, 5'11", dark hair and eyes, likes going out, walks, looking for a single, honest and loving lady, 25-50, who is exotic. Maidstone. Box 460591

COME AND GET ME! Ashford male, 44, dark hair and blue eyes, 5'6", slim, loving, easygoing, loves holidays, theatre, beach walks, W/LTM loving genuine lady for potential LTR. Box 460807

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD Sincere guy, 45, 6ft, slim, likes clubs, pubs, bowling, cinema, meals out, looking for a single female for a stable relationship. Gillingham. Box 462529

2 SEATS PLEASE Richard here, I'm 45, very loving, and I like holidays, listening to music, theatre, cooking, cinema, museums and restaurants. You? Box 859273

BIG DEAL IN DEAL Warm, tactile male, 45, 6ft, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, seeks like minded female, for friendship, leading to more. Box 388967

LOOKING FOR MY LADY Active guy, young 47, professional, likes the theatre, the countryside and photography, loves travelling, hoping to meet a mature warm hearted lady for life-long romance. Sittingbourne. Box 860916

GAINING CONFIDENCE 47yr old chap, Brighton based, have my own company and I enjoy most things in life. Seeks a fresh start with a genuine local lady. Box 463623

GET HAPPY Easygoing guy with GSOH, 46, not bad looking, looking for someone to enjoy friendship, romance and maybe something more. Eastbourne. Box 461443

TAKE MY HAND Genuine, honest man, 47, likes dining out, walking, looking to share the good life with a woman, 35-50. Deal. Kent. Box 460441

FOR FUN & ROMANCE Canterbury male, 48, white, 6'3, medium-large build, likes cycling and walking to keep fit, and boasts! W/LTM slim black lady for possible LTR. Box 465219

YOUNG AT HEART Sincere genuine man, 47, but looks younger, 5'8, cropped hair, blue eyes, single, likes cycling nights in/out, seeks younger female for fun, friendship, LTR. Margate... Box 867708

LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR Outgoing, young-minded male, 47, smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, places of interest, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Margate. Box 443750

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MEN seeking women

BIG ATTRACTIVE GUY Gillingham male, 43, 6'12, blue eyes, dark hair, confident, relaxed, divorced, two grown-up kids, a chef, works hard, loves soul music, seeks soul-mate! Box 465158

A SUMMER WALK Loving, caring and reliable, single male, 45, 5'6, dark hair/blue eyes. I'm seeking a relationship with loving lady 34-56. I like holidays, theatre, music etc. Ashford. Box 465408

ROMANTIC TYPE Caring, romantic and loyal gent, 45yrs young, 5'11, slim build, blue eyes/brown hair, I like walks, music, animals and pubs. Hastings/Bexhill/Eastbourne areas. Box 465613

ALONG THE SHORE Romantic male, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", caring and loving, likes cooking holidays, the countryside, bowling, cinema, seeking a similar lady 34-56. Ashford. Box 465817

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GOING SWIMMINGLY! Sincere, down-to-earth male, 47, 6ft, good-looking, athletic, own business, likes swimming, cinema, music, gigs, walking, seeking slim, laid-back lady, 28-45, for potential LTR. Box 440847

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR! Youthful dad, 45, 5'10", brown hair, med build, divorcee, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, theme parks, W/LTM female, 36-45, slim, for possible LTR. Cranbrook. Box 737529

YOURS TRULY Caring guy, 50, Maidstone-based, looking for someone that little bit special to socialise with and enjoy the good things in life. Box 860490

MAYBE BABY Kind intelligent man, 52, 5'17, average build, grey-green eyes, enjoys reading, walks and meeting people, W/LTM similar attributed lady for friendship, maybe more? Folkestone. Box 465867

MAKE A DATE Fun male 58" brown eyes, whitish hair, looking for an easy-going lady, likes going out, cinema or a meal, and bit of fun. Tunbridge Wells. Box 460208

DANCING THROUGH LIFE Active and easygoing male, mid 50's, always tries to see the funny side of life, looking for a like-minded independent female. Box 464771

AS YOUNG AS YOU FEEL! Hello! I'm a male, mid 50's, but feel and act younger! I'm a smoker, live by the sea and enjoy meals out, golf, driving, holidays. Westgate-on-Sea. Box 455652

RELIGHT MY FIRE! Hi! I'm male, 62, ex fireman, South East Kent, 6'2, stocky build, retired, I like walks, pets, cooking, cinema, meals in and out. Box 455977

GOOD TIMES Well built male, 62, own home, likes 80's rock, smoker, likes driving, looking to spend quality time with a special lady. Brighton. Box 461039

HOLD MY HAND Separated male, 61, honest and trustworthy, W/LTM lady for walks, trips to seaside, cuddles, and hopefully long term relationship. Box 445934

64 ALREADY??!! Dover male, 64, stocky, 5'10 with grey hair, young at heart, likes the gym, great car, likes a drink, seeking loving decent lady for love. Box 465907

LET'S GET ON Friendly male, 58yrs, age 66, like going out to places of interest, holidays, travel, seeking a happy-go-lucky, easygoing lady. Canterbury. Box 465779

BUT ONE MIND Hi there, I'm male, 73, looking for companions

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JANE NORMAN

Tulip mini skirt,
price £28



MAIDSTONE SHOPPING

Strut like a peacock at new fashion shop

GET hot new fashions at cool prices when a new Peacocks store opens in Canterbury on Thursday.

The new store in Canterbury High Street gives shoppers the chance to buy the latest designer-inspired women's, men's and children's fashions at high street prices. As well as increasing the city's shopping options, the new store will also bring 33 new jobs to Canterbury.

To see the latest ranges go online at www.peacocks.co.uk.

Upcycle your look at the Recreation Store

SWAP something you do not want for something you fancy at the Recreation Store in Dover.

The shop in Bench Street closes at the end of this month, so don't miss your last chances to shop for 'upcycled' pieces. The swap shop is open from 11am to 3pm every day except Sundays.

On Saturday, February 27, the store will be holding a 'one day only' sale from 11am to 3pm. To find out more visit the website at www.remadeindover.net.

Bake your way to winning £100 voucher

CUSTOMERS can get involved in the celebrations as White Stuff in Sevenoaks marks its first birthday.

On Friday customers are invited to bring along their culinary creations to the boutique in High Street and take part in a birthday cake competition. Two special guests will judge the contest at 4pm and the best baker will win £100 White Stuff vouchers. Cupcakes will be sold with proceeds for www.guidedogs.org.uk. Visit www.whitestuff.com.

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DISCOVER that hair removal does not have to be hair-raising as Malika opens its new salon at Bluewater.

Using the ancient technique of threading, staff remove hair and shape eyebrows in a relaxing setting with soothing music in the background. The company already has four successful threading boutiques in London and now customers at Bluewater can fit a treatment into their day of shopping.

Visit the website at www.malika.co.uk.

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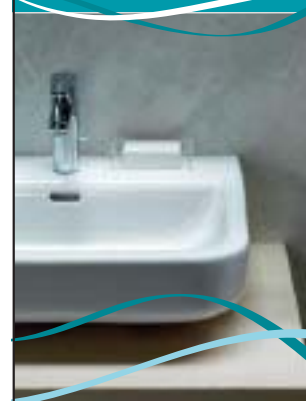
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Breathtaking deep-blue beauty

■ BY SARAH O'MEARA

WITH dry desert heat and healthy coral just hours away in Egypt, there's no reason not to learn to dive.

All scuba-diving novices receive the same instruction: never go anywhere without your buddy. That relationship, my instructor in Egypt explained, can keep you alive.

Having spent two days learning to scuba-dive among the colourful reefs of the Gulf of Aqaba, northern Egypt, dive-master John decided we were now ready for a deep dive.

"This site is called the Blue Hole," he says. "There's nothing to worry about, although the start involves going upside down through a tunnel."

Wishing myself back to our five-star hotel Le Meridien Dahab – a cool breath of modern luxury just a few miles away – I took a deep breath. Then remembered I'm not supposed to do that. For newcomers, the initial stages of learning to dive can test your nerves and patience.

Your first day will be spent kneeling underwater in a cold swimming pool, wearing fins and strapped to an oxygen tank.



FLOATING FREE: Diving on the Gulf of Aqaba reefs

As you are repeatedly asked to fill your face-mask with water, forced to remove your oxygen supply and told off for crashing while attempting not to shoot to the surface, you may find yourself questioning your choice of holiday activity.

Particularly when just metres away other guests are being served cocktails by the waiters and revelling in a delightfully temperate climate. Yet I made it through those testing times and, the worst over, our dive-master takes us on a tour of the coral.

Pointing out various fish, he keeps making a

strange hand signal which I eventually realise means "sea turtle". Spotting one is an unworldly experience and I realise how lucky I am to be there.

Our group stops to stare into dark holes, where fishy eyes peer back out of the gloom, before swimming through tiny clouds of bright blue fishes, teased out of their hideouts. The coral is in beautiful condition and home to a range of fish, including cleaner wrasse which swim into the mouth of our fun-loving dive-master.

Our hotel, Le Meridien Dahab, is on the outskirts of the former Bedouin village of Dahab, 40 miles from Sharm El Sheikh.

Dominated by a long strip of shops, bars and restaurants, there's still no way to avoid the 'hard sell' typical of Egypt, but the overall atmosphere of the town is hippy rather than commercial.

Bedouin-style cafe and bars, where you sit on cushions sipping a drink and looking out to sea, are hard to beat after a day in the sea. Saying that, guests of Le Meridien are genuinely hard-pressed to find a reason to leave their hotel. On a long curve of land overlooking the sea away from the town, the complex boasts a PADI National Geographic dive centre, windsurf centre, kids' club, fitness centre, tennis courts, three restaurants, five pools, a spa, as well as a beautiful beach.

FACT FILE: EGYPT

Time difference	+Two hours (GMT)
Capital	Cairo
Language	Standard Arabic
Population	77,500,000
Currency	Egyptian pound
Religion	Muslim

Sarah O'Meara travelled to Le Meridien Dahab Resort, pictured below, with Tropical Sky Scuba Diving, which offers seven nights' half-board breaks from £759 in June, including flights ex-Gatwick, transfers, taxes and surcharges.

Package includes return flights ex-Gatwick with Thomson, transfers, taxes and surcharges.

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YOUR TV REVIEW



EXPERIENCE: Liberal Democrat Mark Oaten was one of the politicians to try life on the other side

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

TOWER BLOCK OF COMMONS Channel 4, 9pm, Monday

ANY show which pits high-profile politicians with some of the least well-off in society is bound to be must-watch television.

It's the car-crash compulsiveness of it all, as we eagerly anticipate our elected officials tripping up over what they find in some of Britain's worst council estates, bringing the reality sharply home. But to their credit, the cross-selection of MPs who signed up to live with their less well-heeled hosts seemed to adapt and learnt a great deal in this four-part series.

Among those who dared to venture out of Westminster was Lib Dem MP Mark Oaten, who arguably had the most to gain in his attempt to rehabilitate his political career.

Jeering lads mocked him about his cavorting with a male prostitute, the scandal which dashed his party leadership hopes. Visibly shaken, he was later seen lying face down, with his host Cathy pitying him and saying how much the revelations still have an

effect on him – a remarkable turning of the tables.

But he later proved his worth by helping a mum on benefits keep to her weekly shopping budget and started a campaign to get the dreary grey edifice of a tower torn down.

Austin Mitchell was the Labour representative, a 75-year-old voted into office by the working man but now finding himself strangely out of his comfort zone. The producers even offered him the use of a whole council flat in Hull, sharing with his wife Linda and sparing him the joylessness of sleeping on someone else's couch.

No sooner had they moved than they started to redecorate the place. Mr Mitchell, who was recently forced to pay back £10,000 in expenses, had to cook for and feed three children and visited a methadone dispensary with a recovering heroin addict.

He later briefly abandoned the experiment to enjoy a dinner party with friends nearby, only to return humbled and host his own.

Out of the parliamentarians, the one who seemed furthest removed from his new, unfamiliar environment was Tory man Tim Laughton. He was sent to the Newtown estate in Birmingham.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

IT MAY be impossible to break out of a boring rut. Instead of cursing your bad fortune, try focusing on the positive aspects. At least there is an element of security involved. Although you may have to operate by yourself, that's better than answering to a capricious supervisor.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

WORK can be very dispiriting, thanks to an oppressive supervisor who seems to think the entire work force is incapable of handling their responsibilities. For a capable person like you, this is really insulting. Fortunately, some changes are occurring on the home front.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

IT'S hard to hear harsh criticism, but if you don't acknowledge the truth of what's being said you'll never improve. Swallow your pride and take your critic's advice. Whether this means getting more training you've got learn how to walk before you can run.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOU'RE doubtful if someone can change. Making your feelings known will only doom them to failure. Keep your feelings to yourself. They have more potential than you realise. By backing off and giving them space, you'll allow this neighbour, friend or colleague to speak out.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOU may feel alienated from your loved ones. They all seem to think you don't have a firm grip on reality. Maybe that's true; you've always been something of a dreamer, but you needn't be ashamed of your fanciful ways, so long as they are not creating trouble for others.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

YOU can't ignore your unhappiness any longer. Although your desire to serve others has been admirable, it has been of great cost to you. You're too vivacious to resign yourself to a life of misery. Stop weighing down your schedule with non-stop work and start making time for fun.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

BEING too conservative with finances is depriving yourself of pleasure. Stop acting as if it is a sin to enjoy yourself. Splurging on a new outfit, gadget or piece of jewellery may seem frivolous at first, but eventually, you'll realise how starved you've been for luxury.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

SOME people don't think you have got what it takes to manage your money responsibly. This is your chance to prove them wrong. Although you've never cared much about wealth in the past, that doesn't mean you are doomed to live on a shoestring budget.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

A CLOSE relationship is showing signs of strain, mainly because of work. One or both of you is spending too much time at the office. Furthermore, the strains of professional life are beginning to seep into your domestic sphere. You need to formulate a strategy to have more fun.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

SADNESS over your past may inhibit you from advancing your career. Contrary to what certain family members might think, you're an extremely talented person. Now you're more mature, you don't need their approval. However, it may be necessary to slightly alter your goals.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

ADOPTING a bossy attitude won't go down too well at home. Your family life is undergoing some radical changes, and the members of your clan deserve a say in what happens. This means you'll have to put some of your plans on hold for the sake of the group.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

IS SOMEONE in a position of power intimidated by your talent and standing in your way of advancement? It's possible you will have to find another situation in order to fulfil your potential. Although you hate leaving your present job, you have to admit you've hit a glass ceiling.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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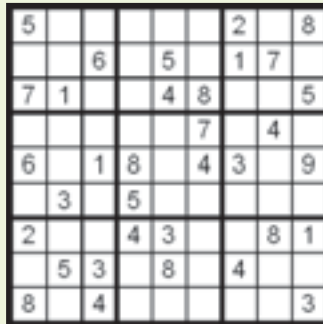
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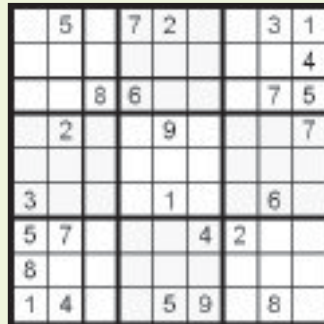
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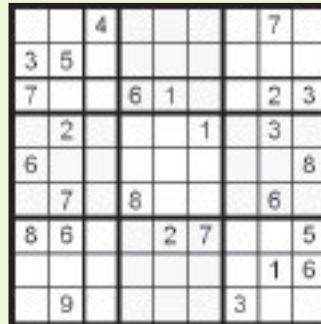
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CRYPTIC CLUES

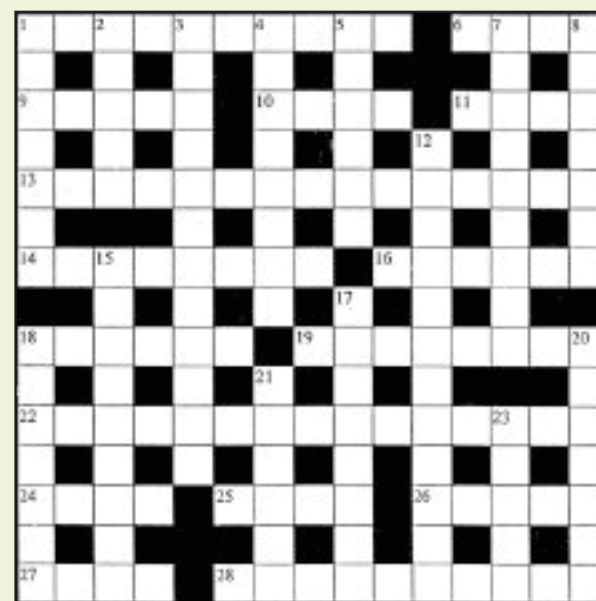
ACROSS

- 1 Met laddies coming from Arabian Peninsula area (6,4)
- 6 One with less than half quantity of water (4)
- 9 Many a bird call from another bird (5)
- 10 Most of potato or some macaroni (4)
- 11 Some brand-new currency (4)
- 13 Lied about gamble, it's useless wondering (4,11)
- 14 Annual? (8)
- 16 Do me a favour (6)
- 18 It is taken to prevent ill-feeling (6)
- 19 Stranded, having done a job in the kitchen (6-2)
- 22 June's home perhaps (6,9)
- 24 Right-sounding ceremonial act (4)
- 25 Jack with duo performing self-defence (4)
- 26 Reducing expenditure sharply means dropping members from team (5)
- 27 Old priest very long time going round the bend (4)
- 28 Tough at the top (4-6)

DOWN

- 1 Preserve mother provided in my clutches (7)
- 2 Of nobleman Claud maybe (5)
- 3 One least likely to get the lot (6,6)
- 4 Pert note about warehouse (8)
- 5 Subscription owing put down (6)
- 7 Fit to do the job with reservations (9)
- 8 Ronald entered portion designed to be firm when eaten (2,5)
- 12 Travelling, try Beach Road to find energy source (12)
- 15 A student with two graduates three times at school (4,5)
- 17 Father's weapon might be required for entry (8)
- 18 Book the substitute (7)
- 20 Moved sideways to first place as promised! (7)
- 21 Upsetting experience in Sumatra strangely headed off (6)
- 23 Aquatic larva Diana cultivated (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Percussion instrument (10)
- 6 Desist (4)
- 9 Tough (anag.) (5)
- 10 Frolic (4)
- 11 Eyelid sore (4)
- 13 No longer having publicity (2,3,10)
- 14 Luminous beetle (8)
- 16 ___ the Divine (2,4)
- 18 Put before (6)
- 19 Ignorant (8)
- 22 MSc (6,2,7)
- 24 Percolate (4)
- 25 50% (4)
- 26 Go (5)
- 27 Flank (4)
- 28 Bored with life (5-5)

DOWN

- 1 Aware (7)
- 2 Taut (5)
- 3 Correspondent (6-6)
- 4 Behind (8)
- 5 Destroyed (6)
- 7 Slightly mad (2,3,4)
- 8 Senator (anag.) (7)
- 12 Relative (7-2,3)
- 15 Larger than usual (9)
- 17 Heavenly (8)
- 18 Pretentious (7)
- 20 Landscape (7)
- 21 Principality (6)
- 23 Antelope (5)

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Saturday 6th March

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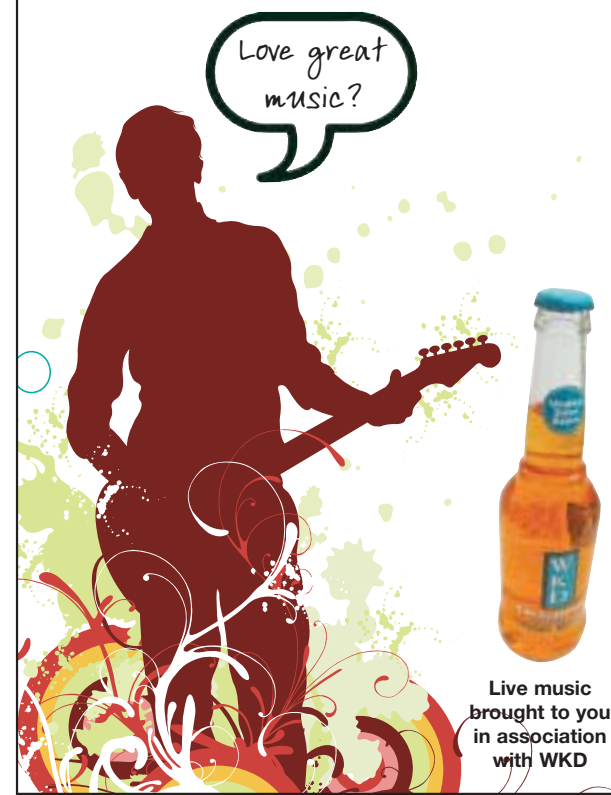
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ACROSS: 1 Music 4 Emblazon 8 Infrastructure 10 Schematic 11 Rodeo 12 Navy 13 Jingoist 17 Vanquish 18 Kent 22 Racer 24 Uncertain 25 Growth industry 26 Cul-de-sac 27 Thyme. DOWN: 1 Meissen 2 Safe haven 3 Clammy 4 Entity 5 Blue-chip 6 Alter ego 7 Oared 9 Wont 14 Inexactly 15 Burrowed 16 As much as 17 Very 19 Tintype 20 Scenic 21 Proust 23 Corfu.

QUICK SOLUTION No125

Pompous 20 Scenery 21 Monocao 22 Blissful 18 Brother-in-law 15 Oversized 17 Treason 12 Knowing 2 Tight 3 Letter-writer 4 Derrive Leave 27 Side 28 World-weary. DOWN: 1 Clowmorm 16 St John 18 Prelix 19 Clueless Romp 11 Sive 13 In the wilderness 14 ACROSS: 1 Kettledrum 6 Quilt 9 Ought 10



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PROPERTY NEWS

Eco show homes offer glimpse of the future

UP TO £60 million has been earmarked by the Government to finance the building of 600 eco show homes.

Housing minister John Healey said funds would be allocated to the country's biggest ever green home-building programme across four locations.

It is intended to provide green living for 2,000 people, with almost a third of the homes to be affordable.

As part of the schemes, new energy projects will be set up so residents take their energy from natural sources, and a low-carbon sixth form will be developed for schools.

Mr Healey said: "This is the start of the country's biggest ever eco home building programme. As a first step, 600 will be built in these four areas – most will be for sale but some will be permanent show homes.

"By 2016 there will be 10,000 eco homes in these four pioneering areas.

"This means people will be able to experience green living for themselves and see how it can change their lives and save money."

Retro-fitting efficiency trend 'is irreversible'

CLIMATE Change Capital, the low carbon asset manager, has completed the fundraising for its first fund with £69 million of equity.

The Climate Change Property Fund focuses on retro-fitting buildings in cities achieve improved sustainability and reduce operating costs.

The fund is 40 per cent invested with existing assets. Further investments are under consideration.

"Investors are becoming increasingly aware of how the future regulatory landscape will look and are acting accordingly," said Tim Mockett, joint founder partner of the fund.

"The trend to more energy efficient buildings, driven by legislation and the wishes of occupiers and investors, is irreversible."



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Inconvenient truth for opponents is that 'HIPs are good for market'

■ BY NICK AMES

THE Association of Home Information Pack Providers (AHIPP) has claimed that Home Information Packs (HIPs) are benefiting the housing market.

The Government introduced HIPs with the aim of speeding up the home buying and selling process.

However, the controversial packs have been branded a waste of time by critics and can cost between £200 and £400.

HIPs were introduced in August 2007 and many believe they have contributed to the fall in house prices, with estate agents frequently calling on the Government to review the packs.

However, a report from Connells Survey and Valuation has led AHIPP, the body that represents HIP companies, to claim HIPs have not hindered the housing market.

Tireless

Ross Bowen, managing director of Connells Survey and Valuation, said there was nine per cent more valuations in January compared with the same month last year.

Mr Bowen said it was the fifth month in a row monthly valuations activity was higher than that of the same month in the previous year.

Mike Ockenden, director general of AHIPP, said: "the report clearly negates claims that the property market is in any way adversely affected by HIPs."

He added: "We will work tirelessly in the coming months to ensure the truth about HIPs and their role in the buying and selling



HOUSING BOON: Supporters say statistics prove HIPs are reducing the stress and cost of buying and selling

process is getting to the people that count – the British electorate."

Shadow housing minister Grant Shapps has been negative about the packs and blamed them for slowing the property market.

If the Conservative party wins the next general election, it has pledged to scrap the packs within weeks of coming to power.

Many industry bodies, in particular the National Association of Estate Agents which has been against the packs since day one, have claimed they were a "failure" and "costly and unnecessary".

Mr Ockenden said: "Grant Shapps has consistently blamed HIPs for stifling the property market but as yet another set of statistics show, this simply isn't the case.

In reality, HIPs have enabled buyers and sellers to complete on the purchase and sale of properties more quickly, with greater assurance and less stress and cost.

"Many of our members report that home sales complete routinely within 30 days when an 'exchange ready' HIP is used and it is about time that this message rather than political spin is put in the public domain."

Stamp duty structural change welcomed

THE Government has published a consultation document – Investment in the UK Private Rented Sector – which indicates that stamp duty concessions could be introduced to encourage institutional investors to become landlords.

Ministers see private rental accommodation as playing "a critical role within the housing system" and are also looking at the possibility of using real estate investment trusts (cur-

rently the domain of commercial property investors) to encourage investment by big players. Aviva and Legal & General are already understood to be interested in expanding into the private rented sector and the Homes and Communities Agency is known to be seeking out other institutional investors for large-scale projects.

Meanwhile, the Association of Residential Letting Agents has welcomed the consulta-

tion. Spokesman Ian Potter said: "We have long been campaigning for a change in stamp duty as it has a prohibitive impact on the private rented sector, so are pleased the Government is taking heed of our recommendations.

"A change to the structure of stamp duty would encourage vital investment into bulk portfolios, helping a part of the housing sector that is going to be pivotal to that sector's recovery."

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Bearsted

- four bedroom detached property
- double glazing and conservatory
- 2 receptions, cloakroom and kitchen
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- garage and driveway

£350,000

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Bearsted

- Four bedrooms, en-suite plus
- cloakroom to bedroom four
- good sized garage

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Bearsted

- Two bedroom detached bungalow
- Lounge, refitted kitchen/diner
- Bathroom, garage, workshop

£315,000

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Maidstone

- Three bedrooms, two receptions.
- Kitchen/Diner, Bathroom/Shower Rm
- Annexe: Lounge/Bedroom

Offers in excess of £245,000

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Weaving

- three bedroom terrace house
- lounge/diner
- refitted kitchen and bathroom

£199,995

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Maidstone

- three bed mid-terraced town house
- kitchen/diner
- hallway and garage

Offers in excess of £190,000

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Maidstone

- three bedroom semi-detached house
- ideally placed for Moat Park
- and Maidstone town centre

Guide Price £170,000

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Maidstone

- Three bedroom, Two reception rooms.
- Cellar
- Situated in Maidstone West

Offers Over £159,995

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Maidstone

- two bedroom first floor apartment
- master bedroom with ensuite
- fully fitted modern kitchen

£145,000

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Weaving

- Two bedroom cottage
- Gas fired central heating
- Part double glazed. No chain

£139,995

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Downswood

- first floor studio maisonette
- lounge/studio
- fitted kitchen with built on oven/hob

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Countrywide

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Three bedroom mid terrace property situated at the end of a residential cul de sac in the village of Snodland.

Maidstone



£189,995

Two bedroom terrace house. Separate lounge and dining room. Luxury shower room. Fitted kitchen.

Maidstone



Offers in the region of £245,000

A superbly presented Grade II Georgian townhouse arranged over four floors. Retains original features. Enclosed garden.

Maidstone



£249,995

substantially extended four double bedroom family home situated in the sought after district of Allington.

Maidstone



£249,995

Seven bedroom bed & breakfast but could be rearranged to offer five bedrooms plus four reception rooms and conservatory

West Malling



Offers in excess of £250,000

Unique extended three bedroom semi-detached house. Office and cloakroom. West Malling village a short distance away.

Maidstone



£275,000

Viewing recommended. Popular location. Convenient for local amenities. Parking to front. Four bedrooms.

Maidstone



£289,995

originally used as a hop pickers residence around 1830, modernised with central heating, fitted kitchen and redecorated.

Maidstone



Offers in excess of £350,000

Unique and imposing period house. Four bedrooms and three receptions. Double garage and gated driveway.

Larkfield



£375,000

Four bedroom detached family home with double garage, lake views and three reception rooms. Viewing essential.

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East Farleigh



- 4 Bed Extended Family Home
- Triple Garage & Outbuildings
- Approximately 200ft Rear Garden

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£440,000-£475,000

Leybourne



- 5/4 Bedroom Detached Home
- 1 Bedroom Annex With En Suite
- Paved Driveway For 6 Vehicles

Enquire Larkfield
£395,000

West Malling



- 2 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Refurbished/Upgraded Within
- Close To Town Centre

Enquire West Malling
OIEO £215,000

Lenham Village



- Two Bedrooms, Two Receptions
- Large Ground Floor Apartment
- Retirement Complex

Enquire Lenham
£219,000


Langley



- Detached Family Home
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Attractive Gardens

Enquire Headcorn
£309,000


Maidstone



- 2 Bed Apartment
- Top Floor & Refurbished
- 2 Allocated Parking Spaces

Enquire Maidstone
£130,000-£140,000

East Malling



- 2 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Conservatory & Cloakroom
- Driveway For 2/3 Cars

Enquire Larkfield
£149,995

West Malling



- 2 Bedroom Extended Home
- Residents Parking Available
- Town Centre Location

Enquire West Malling
£229,995

Halling



- 3 Bedroom Character Property
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Parking For 3 Cars

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Harrietsham



- Two Bedroom Park Home
- Brand New/Never Used Condition
- Exclusive To Over 55's

Enquire Lenham
£99,500


Harrietsham



- Detached Chalet Bungalow
- Four Bedrooms, Two Receptions
- Long Driveway & Garage

Enquire Lenham
£389,950

East Malling



- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Lounge & Kitchen/Breakfast
- Low Maintenance Rear Gardens

Enquire Larkfield
£174,995


Ryarsh



- 4 Bedroom Detached Property
- Planning Permission To Extend
- Offered With No Forward Chain

Enquire West Malling
£425,000 - £455,000

Headcorn



- 2 Bedroom Park Home
- En-Suite to Master Bedroom
- Bus Service to Village

Enquire Headcorn
£159,950


Boughton Monchelsea



- 4 Bed Extended Home
- Popular Cul-de-Sac Development
- 1st Floor Showroom & Bathroom

Enquire Maidstone
O.I.R.O £250,000


Maidstone



- 4 Bed Semi-Detached Home
- Popular Cul-de-Sac Location
- Approximately 50ft Rear Garden

Enquire Maidstone
£235,000-£255,000

Headcorn



- 3/4 Bedroom Semi Detached
- 2/3 Reception Rooms
- Flexible Accommodation

Enquire Headcorn
£310,000

Lenham Village



- Four Bedrooms & En Suite
- Four Reception Rooms
- No Chain Involved

Enquire Lenham
£395,000

Larkfield



- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- South Facing Garden
- Parking For Four Vehicles

Enquire Larkfield
£199,995

Sutton Valence



- 2 Bedroom Cottage
- Conservatory & Gardens
- Cellar Room

Enquire Headcorn
£159,995

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Maidstone
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 • Substantial 6 Bedroom Detached House
 • Kitchen/Diner, Family Room, Lounge,
 • En-Suite Double Garage, Cul-de-Sac Position
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 • Kitchen Breakfast Rm, 2 Ensuites, Family Bathrm
 • Close to Shops/Restaurants!
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Snodland | Price £360,00-£380,000
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 • 3 Receptions, Stunning Kitchen & Utility Room
 • Ensuite to Master Bedroom, Driveway, Garden
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 • Contemporary Design Throughout, Cul-de-Position
 • Triple Length Garage, Close to Town Centre
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 • Conservatory Spacious Lounge/Diner
 • Ensuite, Cloakroom
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Loose | £220,000-£240,000
 • 3 bedroom
 • Semi-detached house
 • Fabulous rear garden
LOOSE OFFICE | 01622 744067



Downswood | Price Range: £185,000-£200,000
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 • 2 Reception Rooms, Conservatory
 • Gas Central Heating, Part D. Glazed
BEARSTED OFFICE | 01622 730955



Bearsted Offers Over: £110,000
 • Building Plot
 • For Sale By Tender
 • Closing Date 19th March 2010
BEARSTED OFFICE | 01622 730955



Bearsted: 01622 730955

Loose: 01622 744067

Kings Hill: 01732 222211

Maidstone: 01622 683737

Larkfield: 01732 847877

Snodland: 01634 245055

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Maidstone Branch



Connells

PUBLIC NOTICE

Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £158,750 for 27 Derby Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 7JB. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Connells 30 King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1BS tel: 01622 751034, before exchange of contracts.

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- Conservatory
- Attractive Kitchen, Garage

Maidstone £102,000



- 1 Bed Retirement Apartment
- Newly Fitted Carpets
- Central Location
- Resident Parking

Maidstone £139,950



- 2 Bed Top Floor Apartment
- Balcony
- Ensuite to the Master Bedroom
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen

Maidstone £144,995



- Two Bedroom
- Rear Garden
- Kitchen/Diner, Bathroom
- No Onward Chain!!!!!!

Maidstone £167,500



- 3 Bed End Of Terrace House
- Over Four Floors
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

Maidstone £169,995



- Three Bedrooms
- D. Glazing & Central Heating
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Parking

Maidstone £180,000-£200,00



- 3 Bed Victorian Mid Terrace
- Approx 60" Rear Garden
- Downstairs Bathroom

Maidstone £309,995



- 4 Bedroom Detached House
- Garage & Driveway
- D. Glazing & Central Heating
- Situated Off The Queens Road

Allington £269,995



- Cox Style Semi - Detached
- Four Bedrooms, Large Garden
- Flexible Accommodation
- Garage & Driveway

Detling OIEO £800,000



- 4/5 Bedroom Chalet Bungalow
- Set Within Approx 3 Acres
- Bar & Games Room, 4 Receptions
- Garages & Block of 4 Stables

Coxheath £225,000



- 2 Bed Detached Bungalow
- Village Location
- Garage and Off Road Parking
- Kitchen/Diner

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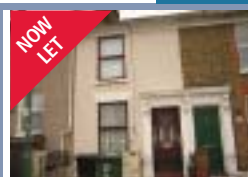
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Hope Street £650pcm



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- Near to town centre & Station
- New carpets throughout
- cellar - on road permit parking

Heath Road £625pcm



- 2 bedroom cottage
- Garden and parking, NO Pets
- One double bedroom
- 2nd bedroom/study

The Cockpit £650pcm



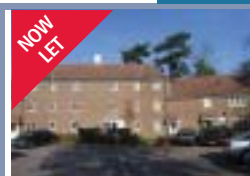
- 3 bedroom house in Marden
- Modern kitchen with appliances
- Rear enclosed paved garden
- Summer house off road parking

Dover Street £675pcm



- 3 bed roomed property
- 3rd bedroom off of 2nd
- Available Soon - call to go on the waitlist

St Francis Close £695pcm



- 2 bedroom apartment
- desirable area, good sized living room
- Allocated parking

Upper Street £675pcm



- One bedroom house with attic room (2nd room)
- Living room with dining area
- Cottage style kitchen

Church Street £725pcm



- Brand new 2 bed - double bedroom apartment
- Open plan living area with modern kitchen

Glebe Lane £675pcm



- 2 double bedroom apartment
- Spacious kitchen Modern bathroom
- Carpets and gas central heating
- Communal garden parking for 2 cars

Sheldon Court £200pcm



- 5 bedroom oast conversion
- New kitchen with modern units
- 5 burner cooker, dishwasher
- 5 double bedrooms, 2 with en suites

Salisbury Road £750pcm



- 2 bedroom terrace house with some furniture
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Enclosed garden with lawned area

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St Anne Court, Maidstone £600 pcm
 Two bedroom terrace house, rear garden, lovely quiet retirement development



Stanhope House, Maidstone £650 pcm
 Two bedroom top floor flat, electric heating, en-suite and parking



Alexander Street, Maidstone £450 pcm
 Studio flat, electric heating, parking



Rochester Street, Chatham £650 pcm
 2 bedroom refurbished terrace, gas central heating, town centre location



Melville Road, Maidstone £650pcm
 Two bedroom terrace, gas central heating, garden



Hedley Street, Maidstone £650pcm
 Two bedroom refurbished terrace, gas central heating, garden and town centre location



Linden Road, Coxheath - £395pcm
 Ground floor studio apartment, electric heating, parking



St Andrews Gardens, Maidstone £695pcm
 Two bedroom apartment, gas central heating, communal garden and balcony



Western Road, Maidstone £650pcm
 2 bedroom Victorian terrace, gas central heating, garden



The Sovereigns, Barming £750pcm
 Two bedroom apartment, Storage heating, DG, Parking, close to Maidstone hospital

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MOTORS NEWS



Second generation for VW Touareg is unveiled

VW has an all-new Touareg 4x4 due this summer and it is up to 200 kilos lighter and 20 per cent more fuel efficient than the current car.

No prices have been revealed yet, but VW will offer an out-and-out Escape version for buyers needing proper off-road performance and there will be a sporty hybrid, able to see off hot hatches while averaging in the mid-30s for mpg.

For a beefy SUV/4x4 it is also leaner and more stylish than it is currently.



ix35 becomes first with new face of Hyundai

HYUNDAI'S forthcoming Tucson replacement, the ix35, launches a new design language and shows off a new hexagonal corporate grille.

The sleeker look is claimed to help aerodynamics and complement a new powertrain offering better fuel efficiency and lower CO2 emissions.

The Korean marque says this will attract would-be buyers of mainstream hatchbacks, MPVs and new crossovers like the Nissan Qashqai and Peugeot 3008.

The ix35 arrives in March, with pricing from around £14,000 – backed by the usual Hyundai five-year warranty.



Audi's baby car gets an A1 for city car effort

AUDI is to close a gap in its model numbering system by launching a new A1.

The three-door compact will also break new ground by being a premium city car contender when order books open in May, priced from £13,000 and with standard spec including alloys, air con and electronic stability control.

The A1 will be an unusually sleek and sporty contender for this sector yet Audi claims it will still carry four people and their luggage, while offering both petrol and diesel powertrains.



BLOCK-BUSTER: Citroën contradicts the usual look for people carriers with its C3 Picasso, combining slippery edges and 4x4 styling with added 'bling' such as alloys and roof bars

Citroën continues cubist cult with the C3 Picasso

ROAD TEST CITROEN C3

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

but Citroën has shrewdly offered various acid colours – it has 'cult car' written all over it.

We borrowed a 95bhp 1.4-litre petrol model from Wilmoths Citroën at Park Wood, Maidstone, the most junior engine yet lively enough for the newcomer and quiet on the motorway.

A 120bhp 1.6-litre petrol unit is also in the mix, though Wilmoths' general sales manager Kelvin Clayton says the two 1.6-litre diesel options – 90bhp and 110bhp – dominate sales 70/30, despite a £1,100 premium.

There are three C3 Picasso trim levels: VT, VTR+ – the start point for air con as standard – and Exclusive. They all have typical Picasso versatility with split-fold/sliding rear seats.

The front passenger seat back also folds for extra load space and as a useful table cum tray for life on the road, while an upright rear end delivers one of the biggest boots in its sector.

There is also lots of stowage bins and space and the glassy cabin can be enhanced by a panoramic roof – something of a Picasso speciality.

Add this to a high driving position and minimal body roll in corners and you are inclined to forgive slightly vague steering.



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Please send a CV to:

Mr M Kayes
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The Lodge
Darenth Hill
Darenth
Kent DA2 7QR

or email:
mike@riddingtons.co.uk



Marketing Assistant

Visit Kent is the official tourism delivery body for Kent. We are a public/private sector partnership supporting Kent's £2.5 bn visitor economy.

We are expanding our team thanks to support from our stakeholders and successful applications for grant aid from the EU 2 Seas Interreg IV A Programme. We are seeking energetic and experienced individuals who first and foremost love Kent and are passionate about encouraging visitors to Kent.

Marketing Assistant

This role will involve all aspects of campaign delivery including PR, online, briefing agencies, printers, and fulfilment house, the production of a range of marketing material and the analysis of marketing results. The successful candidate will have a marketing background with experience of working in the tourism industry and will be a confident, outgoing person with excellent communication skills and ideally proficiency in French.

Salary £17,000 - £20,000

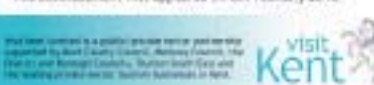
Visit www.visitkent.co.uk for more details of the position and application details.

For further information, please contact Sharon Dawson on 01227 862789 or sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 19th February 2010.

Interviews will be held on 25th February in Canterbury.

This advertisement first appeared on 6th February 2010.



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Visit Kent

Visit Kent is the official tourism delivery body for Kent. We are a public/private sector partnership supporting Kent's £2.5 bn visitor economy.

We are expanding our team thanks to support from our stakeholders and successful applications for grant aid from the EU 2 Seas Interreg IV A Programme. We are seeking energetic and experienced individuals who first and foremost love Kent and are passionate about encouraging visitors to Kent.



Finance Coordinator

(French speaker preferred), Canterbury based but able to travel to Maidstone approximately twice a week and to France, The Netherlands and Belgium periodically for meetings. The focus of the role will be the preparation of monthly management accounts, budgeting and forecasting, cash flow, organising and supporting external audit of EU 2 Seas Interreg IV A projects, monitoring of project budgets and budget holders. Must have excellent systems skills (Excel & Sage) and be capable of robust and detailed analysis as well as the ability to liaise at senior levels. Experience in a financial environment and with European projects preferred.

Relevant tertiary qualifications required although candidates actively studying will be considered.

Salary £25,000 - £30,000

Visit www.visitkent.co.uk for more details of the positions and application details.

For further information, please contact Sharon Dawson on 01227 862789 or sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 24th February 2010.

This advertisement first appeared on 10th February 2010.



THE THOMAS AVELING SCHOOL

(A Foundation Technology College)
Arethusa Rd, Rochester, Kent ME1 2UW
Headteacher: Mr P Jackson, BSc

Tel: 01634 844809

Fax: 01634 818385

Email: office@thomasaveling.co.uk Website: www.thomasaveling.co.uk



Home School Support Worker

37 hours per week – (term time only + 3 weeks)

Salary: NJC Scale C1, point 17-26 pro-rata (£16,830 - £22,221 fte)

We seek to appoint from April 2010 a Home School Support Worker to support families whose children are experiencing difficulties and to help them participate fully in school activities. The successful candidate will be expected to liaise with the school Children's Team and be able to offer:

- Experience of working with children and families
- Good communication skills
- An ability to mediate, negotiate and problem solve
- A willingness to work with other agencies

On appointment, the HSSW will be part of the Medway Home School Support Worker Network and have access to training and a link supervisor.

It will be essential for the successful applicant to have a clean driving licence and to be willing to work outside of term time and beyond school hours as required.

Job Description available on request.

Cover Supervisor

Term Time – 31.25 hours per week (Term time plus 5 development days)

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A rewarding opportunity has arisen for a pro-active organised and self-motivated person to join a successful and over-subscribed secondary school to provide teaching cover supervision across the school and cover for absent colleagues as required to a maximum of 25 lessons per week. In addition, the successful applicant will be required to support student behaviour management systems and may occasionally be required to undertake other reasonable tasks commensurate with the role as may become necessary from time to time. The position additionally represents a good opportunity for anyone considering a career in teaching to gain valuable experience in a teaching environment.

CLOSING DATE FOR BOTH VACANCIES: WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2010

Interviews to be held w/beg 22 February 2010

(please note only short-listed candidates will be contacted)

Please send your letter of application, clearly stating to which position you are applying, together with a completed Application Form (available on the school website) and CV to:

Mr.S.Rayner, Finance and Business Manager, to the above address.

The Thomas Aveling School is an equal opportunities employer – committed to safeguarding the welfare of all students and an enhanced CRB check will be required for the successful applicants.

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- Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
- Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
- A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
- No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
- Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publication.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vesellous action via the advertiser.
- Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
- A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
- Seasonal contracts. Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
- All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver stand or otherwise) and for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music: approved by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-over or non-copyright free music, it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
- Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those with their own search engine (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
- Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
- a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of this essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
- b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
- c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
- d. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
- e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
- f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belongs to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

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Consultant for Minority Ethnic Achievement (Traveller Education) Ref: CA0973C

Salary: Soulbury points 10-12 £42,227 – £44,454 per annum
Hours: 37 per week Location: Children and Adults – learning and caring directorate, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham

We are looking for a consultant with substantial and proven successful teaching and management experience in school for 19 April 2010 or as soon as possible thereafter, to be responsible for Minority Ethnic Achievement, and in particular for Traveller Education. The postholder will:

- provide training and school based consultancy to Medway primary and secondary schools to raise standards of teaching and learning and attainment for vulnerable pupils with a focus on minority ethnic pupils and in particular Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils.
- assist in monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the progress and impact of provisions for vulnerable pupils in particular, GRT pupils in Medway schools.
- contribute to the raising of standards and improving inclusion of vulnerable pupils in Medway schools through training, challenge and support, and advice as required.

The postholder will be part of the Minority Ethnic Achievement Team and work alongside colleagues in the School Improvement Team. We welcome applications from the Traveller Community.

Any offer of appointment will be subject to a satisfactory enhanced criminal records bureau disclosure.

For an informal discussion phone Amy Thompson on 01634 338543

Closing date for application: Monday, 1 March.

Short listing date: Friday, 5 March. Interviews: Friday, 12 March.

For an application pack or to apply visit www.medway.gov.uk or phone 01634 333333 Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 1pm or 01634 332843 24-hour answerphone. Alternatively email jobs@medway.gov.uk quoting the reference.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.

Nacro Operations in Kent offer vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19 years and adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate, raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment.

As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.

We have the following vacancies at our Chatham New Bridge House Centre:

SCHOOLS PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR (MATERNITY COVER)

£19,779.00p.a

Our 14-16 year old programmes include Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme (60/40) and Alternative Curriculum programmes for individual schools. Our programme objectives are to develop and encourage vocational and employability skills which enable young people to re-engage and make positive life choices.

We are looking to engage a highly motivated, organised individual who has empathy with this client group. The post holder will be required to co-ordinate the activities and take responsibility for the Nacro 14-16 year old Alternative Curriculum programmes across Kent and Medway. This post will suit someone who has a background in education and who is keen to ensure that all young people receive the education appropriate to their needs.

This position is subject to an enhanced CRB check

SKILLS FOR LIFE/FUNCTIONAL SKILLS TRAINER (PART TIME 16HRS) (MATERNITY COVER)

£17,734.00p.a (pro-rata)

This role is to provide high quality skills for life for young people aged 16-19. You must have good administrative skills and record keeping and an ability to produce reports and monitoring of all information.

Good time management is a must as well as to be able to communicate effectively at all levels both verbally and in writing.

You would be required to work as part of a team and under your own initiative.

Experience of challenging behaviour would be an advantage.

This position is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Contact colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818301 for an application pack.

Closing date for both vacancies is 8th March 2010.



The Boulders Ltd

As a growing childcare organisation we are looking to recruit an experienced

Registered Manager

for our 6 bedded Children's Home in the South London area.

You will need to be able to demonstrate your experience and passion in working with young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated person with excellent organisational, interpersonal and multitasking skills who will lead and manage their team of support workers.

The ideal candidate will hold a NVQ 3, NVQ 4 or Registered Manager Award, Children and Young People (or equivalent) or be working towards this qualification and also hold a full driving licence.

This is a full time position and the successful applicant will be expected to work alongside a rota and cover on call responsibilities as required.

The post is subject to an enhanced CRB Disclosure.

We offer a competitive salary, excellent supervision and Training package allowing the opportunity for personal development.

For further information and to download an Application Form please visit our website www.theboulders.com or contact Margaret on 01795 845810

Closing date for Application Forms 1st March 2010

Interviews for those shortlisted will commence 8th March 2010

KCA provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services, including Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), part of our Psychological Therapy Providers (PTP) service. We offer a strong departmental framework with regular clinical supervision, line management, monthly team meetings and effective administration. If you are currently employed by the NHS we will arrange for you to remain in the NHS pension scheme.

Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner

£20,710 - £26,839 NHS AGENDA FOR CHANGE BAND 5
ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE UP TO £1,170 PER ANNUM
FULL-TIME 37.5 HOURS PER WEEK
EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS MAY BE REQUIRED
BASED IN SITTINGBOURNE

Are you an Occupational Therapist or RMN with CBT experience or a qualified Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner (PWP) looking to develop your skills in psychological services? We require an experienced PWP to work within our established IAPT low intensity team in Sittingbourne. You will offer low intensity CBT based interventions to adults experiencing mild mental health issues. You should have a clear understanding of CBT approaches and techniques, low intensity/high volume working, telephone work with clients and a knowledge of current NICE and IAPT guidance. Ref: 616.

Closing date: 26 February 2010. Interview date: 10 March 2010.

Cognitive Behavioural Therapist, Couples or Family Therapist – Step 3 High Intensity

£29,789 - £39,273 NHS AGENDA FOR CHANGE BAND 7
(PRO RATA IF PART-TIME)
ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE UP TO £1,170 PER ANNUM
(PRO RATA IF PART-TIME)
FULL-TIME 37.5 HOURS PER WEEK OR PART-TIME 18.75 HOURS PER WEEK
EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS MAY BE REQUIRED
BASED IN RAMSGATE

You will join our IAPT service providing high intensity CBT/Couples/Family interventions for a range of common mental health problems. You will also provide an advisory service to IAPT colleagues on matters related to practice and delivery of CBT/Couples/Family therapy to individuals accessing the service in line with IAPT guidelines and best practice. The role may include group work, if the post holder is qualified and competent.

A Diploma in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Couples or Family Therapy is essential, and you must be accredited or working towards accreditation with the BABCP, or similar. To discuss this role informally, please contact the Service Manager, Lynda Burr on 01843 593832 (Monday, Wednesday or Friday). Ref: 622.

Closing date: 26th February 2010.

Interviews will take place in Ramsgate.

For both posts, an application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote the relevant reference number.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk



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Salary will depend on experience.

Please apply online at

www.DTUK4LEARNERS.co.uk/JOBS



Saufon Pharmaceuticals Limited is an expanding independent manufacturing company producing contact lenses and solutions for markets around the world. We currently have the following vacancies:-

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

As part of the maintenance team you will help maintain and repair plant equipment throughout the Ashford sites. Working to a high standard and compliant with legislation you will need to be able to work as part of a team, or alone.

You will have served a recognised electrical apprenticeship and possess the 17th edition certification. Experience working in a manufacturing environment as a qualified maintenance electrician is required and mechanical experience will be an advantage. A full driving license is essential.

MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

This role encompasses preventative and routine maintenance of production equipment, buildings and the installation of new equipment in a manufacturing environment. The successful candidate should possess at least 5 years of previous engineering experience in this environment. Turning/welding skills would be an advantage. A full driving license is essential.

Hours of work for the above 2 positions will be Flexible 6:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

PRODUCTION SCHEDULER

The role will involve creating and maintaining weekly production schedules for contact lenses aftercare solutions based on the ERP suggestions, making the most effective use of resources, whilst meeting agreed customer service and stock levels. You will liaise daily with the production, sales departments and other members of the planning team.

The ideal candidate will have 3 years experience in a similar role, have good excel skills and experience of working with ERP systems. You must be a good team player, have good communication skills and be able to work on your own initiative. The position is based at the production site in Ashford in Kent.

Hours of work will be 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Monday – Friday.

We offer a competitive salary, holiday entitlement and productivity bonus scheme.

For an application form, please telephone 01233 646599 or alternatively send a detailed CV, quoting your current salary to:-

HR Department – Recruitment, Saufon Pharmaceuticals Limited, Unit 8, Mace Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent - TN24 8EP alternatively email: SimonIK@saufon.co.uk



KOS Media is looking to recruit a news editor and reporter for the Midweek series of newspapers based at our offices just outside of Ashford.

News Editor

We need a qualified senior, preferably with desk experience, who is able to lead a team including trainees for three editions. Your experience and knowledge of news gathering will be essential in helping trainees meet their potential.

Each of our local papers runs alongside its own dedicated website. You will be expected to keep the website up to date. An understanding of the changing ways people get their news now and in the future will be as important as your track record to date.

Reporter

We are looking for an experienced reporter to work on one of our 11 Midweek newspapers. You should be able to demonstrate an ability to work quickly and accurately. The website will be as important to you as the newspaper and you should understand the changes that are going on in the way people get their news and how it is presented. You must be able to drive and have a car, and you will be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses.

Apply with your CV or letter to:

Gary Wright
Group Editor Midweeks
KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road,
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
email: gary.wright@kosmedia.co.uk

Closing date for applications 28th February 2010.



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www.WestKentYMCA.org.uk

Jobs@WestKentYMCA.org.uk

Elizabeth: 01892 542209

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An aptitude towards wanting to succeed is what we are seeking as full training will be provided to the right individual through in-house one to one, manufacturer courses and independent motor trade associates. We are adamant that the successful candidate will be someone who wants a career, not a job.

If you feel that you have the will and the drive to succeed where others would not, then please send your CV with a covering letter to:

Personnel Department,

Wilmoths Citroën Maidstone, Sutton Road,
Parkwood, Maidstone, Kent ME15 8RD

or e-mail: sales@wilmothsmaidstone.citroen.co.uk

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PUBLIC NOTICE

LICENSING ACT 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that Christine Gillian Southern has applied to Maidstone Borough Council for the grant of a Premises License in respect of the premises known as Southern's Newsagents, 6 Mangravel Avenue, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 9BQ for the supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises.

Details of the register of record of the application can be viewed at Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ during normal office hours. Any representations from interested parties or responsible authorities must be made in writing to the Council by 17th March 2010.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable to a summary conviction is a fine not exceeding 5000.

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ON TARGET: Jon Cooper's (pictured) strike helped Maidstone to their first league win of the year

Bassano-Harper among the goals again

Banbury 0 Maidstone 3

MAIDSTONE men's 1st XI pulled further clear of the relegation mire in South Hockey Premier League Division One after a comfortable win at Banbury.

Darren Marchant's side have slowly slipped down the table since the start of the New Year and visited Banbury knowing they needed to end their barren run.

Maidstone made a strong start to the game and took the lead through top scorer Chris Bassano-Harper. The goal was his 16th of the

HOCKEY

season so far.

Further strikes from Jon Cooper and Chris Waight wrapped up the three points and secured Maidstone's first league win since their 3-2 victory against Oxford University on December 12.

The much-needed three points means Maidstone move into tenth place in the division and 12 points clear of the relegation zone. Marchant's side have a tough challenge

to clinch back-to-back wins as they host fourth-placed Chichester this Saturday. Chichester have lost once in their last five games and are ready to pounce in the battle for promotion.

Maidstone ladies enjoyed a break at the weekend, but they are due to return East Women's Premier League action next week. Rachel Thompson's side have four games of the season remaining and are just eight points behind leaders Canterbury 2s with two games in hand. On Saturday they travel to meet seventh-placed Wapping.

CRICKET

Jones still has hunger after winter break

AFTER one of his most successful seasons for Kent, Geraint Jones insists he won't be curbing his attacking instincts when he goes out to bat against Division One bowlers this summer.

The wicket keeper/batsman was a revelation at number three in the Kent batting order in championship cricket last summer, scoring 1,291 runs at 51.64 which included five hundreds and the same number of 50s.

The 33-year-old counter-attacked whether he went in first wicket down with Kent struggling on 2 for 1 or 100 for 1, displaying the sort of form from his early days with the county, and which later made him a permanent fixture in the England side.

He was also named Kent Player of the Year last summer and is believed to have been close to a recall to the England set-up during the winter tour to South Africa. After spending some of the off-season in Australia visiting family and friends, the Papua New Guinea-born right-hander is refreshed and ready for the new season.

"Having that big break works for me because it gives me that hunger for the game again after a hard summer," he said. "I was happy with the way the season went and with the amount of runs I scored and to be named player of the year was like the icing on the cake really. The key for me this year is to be consistent and do it summer after summer and make sure it wasn't just a one off."

Jones will form part of a strong Kent top order which includes skipper Rob Key, Joe Denly, Martin van Jaarsveld, Darren Stevens and Sam Northeast and says that settled batting line-up does bring a sense of stability.

Whatever happens this summer, Jones will not be forced into his shell.

"If the balls are in the right area I will whack them, but there were times last season where I set my stall out to bat periods and left the ball well," he said.



FORM: Geraint Jones

Picture IGOR KUPOD



FIRST WIN: Aylesford Bulls used their power up front to carve out their first league win of the season against arch rivals Maidstone

Picture MARTYN WATSON

Maidstone lose out as Bulls claim basement battle win

AYLESFORD Bulls claimed the local bragging rights and secured their first win of the season in a London 1 South basement battle at Maidstone.

With both sides at the foot of the table after difficult seasons, pride was only at stake at The Mote. Bulls, who entered the game without a win this season and having been defeated by their rivals earlier in the season, rose to the challenge and left Maidstone with their first ever league victory against their near neighbours.

After Maidstone's strong performance in a 44-24 defeat to Sidcup the previous week, much was expected from the home side's back line, but they failed to deliver.

The first 20 minutes saw Aylesford dominate

RUGBY

■ BY YOURMAIDSTONE REPORTER

Maidstone 3 Aylesford Bulls 26

and they had two penalty chances to take the lead, but fly-half Dan Harvey missed both kicks at goal. Maidstone responded by forcing Bulls into their own 22. Despite a number of promising opportunities, the scoreboard read 0-0 at the break.

Aylesford started the second-half with considerable purpose, but it was Maidstone who scored first. A penalty to Aylesford just past the halfway line was reversed and then progressed ten metres for dissent, bringing it within Mike Molloy's range and he duly converted.

The game took a turn in Aylesford's favour as they capitalised on a scrum deep in Maidstone's 22. A quick ball inside to Richard Nauer created a gap, which he powered through to score the first try of the game. Harvey converted to give Aylesford a 7-3 lead.

Maidstone's chances of victory were dealt a blow minutes later, as they were reduced to 14 men with Jack Lamb shown a yellow card. Bulls took full advantage of their extra man and extended their lead with a try from Ledua Joep.

With Maidstone's pack in disarray, Joep completed a hat trick with two further tries to secure a comfortable victory for Aylesford Bulls. Despite recording their first ever league win against Maidstone, Bulls remain bottom of London 1 South.

Aylesford host Thanet Wanderers this Saturday, while Maidstone visit Beckenham.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT
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We'll Nott be relegated, says new Stones boss

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

CARETAKER boss Peter Nott says his first objective while in charge of Maidstone United is to ensure the club avoids relegation.

Nott was appointed caretaker boss of the Ryman Premier League club last week, following the shock departure of joint-managers Alan Walker and Lloyd Hume. Although he has been quickly drafted into the role, he is clear on his objectives while in charge.

The former Maidstone reserve team boss has already taken charge of two games, which saw the Stones beaten 3-0 by Hendon, followed by a 1-0 win at Carshalton Athletic. Nott, who has been involved at the club for eight years, is excited by the chance to lead the first-team and is confident he can secure Maidstone's status in the division.

He said: "First objective is we have got to stay in this league and I don't mean that in a negative way. Once we have done that then we can build on that and try and achieve more. This league is very tight and two or three wins can make a real difference, if we can do that then we will chase other targets.

"First-team manager is something I've aspired to be and I've worked hard to get to this point. A lot of the players are close to Alan and Lloyd, but they have been very responsive. There are lot of experienced players here



NEW ROLE Peter Nott (left) and Jay Saunders (right) are ready to help guide the club to safety



Picture: STEVE TERRELL

and they genuinely want to do well and they will."

Former Gillingham and Ebbsfleet United midfielder Craig Stone has joined the club on a game-by-game basis as he continues his recovery from a broken leg.

The 21-year-old played his first game for Maidstone last week, which is the first match he has played since breaking his leg with Ebbsfleet United last year.

Nott said: "Craig has joined us to help his recovery. It is not a secret that he wishes to return to full-time football, but he is here to help his fitness and help us. He will be available for Thursday's game against Waltham Abbey."

Elsewhere at the club, general manager Bill Williams has been appointed as director of football to assist Nott for the remainder of the season. Also, midfielder Jay Saunders has taken up the role of player/coach.

Williams said: "I'm delighted to be involved and will always be available when needed. There is a great deal to be done to make sure that we have the type of exciting and competitive team that everyone will be happy to support, but that is obviously down to Peter and his assistant Tony [Cornwell].

"My first aim is to secure a permanent training centre, a facility where we are able to train and treat any injured players."

FOOTBALL



Picture: STEVE TERRELL

DEPARTED: Alan Walker and Lloyd Hume enjoyed a successful time in charge of Maidstone United

Walker's exit marks the end of an era

ALAN Walker's departure from Maidstone United marked the end of an association with the club spanning three decades.

Walker, who left the club along with joint boss Lloyd Hume last week, first played against the Stones when he was with Telford, but wrote his name into club folklore on Boxing Day 1989, when, as Gillingham captain, he knocked himself unconscious scoring a consolation goal in the first ever Kent derby in the Football League.

With Gillingham trailing Maidstone 2-0 in injury time, Walker hurled himself at a cross and scored but smashed his head into the upright, a typically brave act by a granite-hard player who inspired fierce loyalty.

When Hume was named Maidstone manager in 2004 it was a transparent way of getting around Kent League rules that prevented Walker, a KCFA employee, from officially taking the role.

Yet by the time the duo had won promotion to the Ryman League, an increasingly confident Hume wanted an even footing and the pair were named joint-managers for 2006/2007, when they won Ryman Division One South at the first attempt.

However, in the summer of 2007 Walker suffered a freak spinal injury while heading a ball during a coaching session in Belfast.

Although surgeons considered his recovery "astounding," for a man who played well into his 40s, the injury was devastating.

Although he returned to co-manage the side with Hume, for the first time this season the team looked less than the sum of its parts.

Walker was unavailable for comment, but Hume said the duo had left on good terms.

"I've never been at a club for as long as this so it will be hard to leave it," he said. "I think for me my highlight was winning promotion to the Ryman Premier at the first time of asking. It was a great season and I enjoyed every minute of it.

"I've worked with Alan for a long time and I would like to work alongside him at another club if the chance arose. I think during our time together at Maidstone we have proved that having joint managers works."

LEAGUE TABLE

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Dartford	24	17	4	3	+41	55
2 Kingstonian	27	15	3	9	+5	48
3 Hastings United	27	12	6	9	+6	42
4 Sutton United	25	12	4	9	+13	40
5 Boreham Wood	26	12	4	10	+8	40
6 Tooting & Mitcham	27	11	7	9	+3	40
7 Ashford Town (Mx)	28	10	10	8	-2	40
8 Wealdstone	23	10	9	4	+2	39
9 Horsham	25	11	5	9	+6	38
10 AFC Hornchurch	26	9	9	8	+2	36
11 Canvey Island	26	10	6	10	+1	36
12 Aveley	26	10	5	11	+5	35
13 Harrow Borough	26	9	8	9	0	35
14 Cray Wanderers	29	10	4	15	-16	34
15 Maidstone United	25	9	5	11	-6	32
16 Hendon	23	9	4	10	0	31
17 Carshalton Athletic	25	7	8	10	-7	29
18 Tonbridge Angels	26	8	5	13	-11	29
19 Billericay Town	25	6	8	11	-7	26
20 Margate	25	6	7	12	-15	25
21 Bognor Regis Town	25	5	9	11	-12	24
22 Waltham Abbey	25	6	6	13	-16	24

FIXTURES

(Thursday): Ryman League Premier Division:

Maidstone United v Waltham Abbey; (Saturday):

Ryman League Premier Division: Billericay Town v

Maidstone United

Coleman just misses out on the coveted Kent title

CROSS-COUNTRY

MEDWAY & Maidstone Athletic Club's Mike Coleman was denied a seventh consecutive Kent Cross Country title after losing out in a dramatic sprint finish.

The championships held at Detling Hill, near Maidstone, on Saturday welcomed athletes from across the county to compete for the coveted crown.

The senior men's race was closely fought between six-time champion Coleman and Cambridge Harriers runner Dean Lacey.

Lacey and Coleman dominated the race and by the end of the 12,400-metre course they were locked together. However, the 31-year-old reigning champion was unable to match Lacey's sprint finish, leaving him crossing the line in second place with a time of 39 minutes and 21 seconds. It is the first time Coleman has been beaten at Detling Hill since 2003.

In the senior men's team event, Medway & Maidstone finished second behind Tonbridge Athletic Club in the first six to score event, while in the first 12 runners to score competition, Medway & Maidstone topped the table ahead of rivals Tonbridge.

While Coleman suffered the disappointment of losing his six-year reign as Kent Cross Country champion, Natalie Gray ensured Medway & Maidstone had something to celebrate by defending her senior women's crown.

The 21-year-old, who helped Great Britain under-23s to gold at the European Cross Country Championships in December, com-



Picture: ION KIRKOP

SPRINT FINISH: Mike Coleman (611) and Dean Lacey battle it out on the final straight at Detling Hill

pleted the 7,200m course in 24 minutes and 43 seconds. She finished a full 50 seconds in front of her nearest challenger Bryony Proctor from Blackheath & Bromley Harriers. Tonbridge's Deirdre McDermot clinched the final podium spot in third place.

Bernadette Harrop was the next Medway & Maidstone runner to cross the finish line in 16th spot.

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Gills boss Mark Stimson on what's needed to steer the club away from the drop zone



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